UN Chronicle

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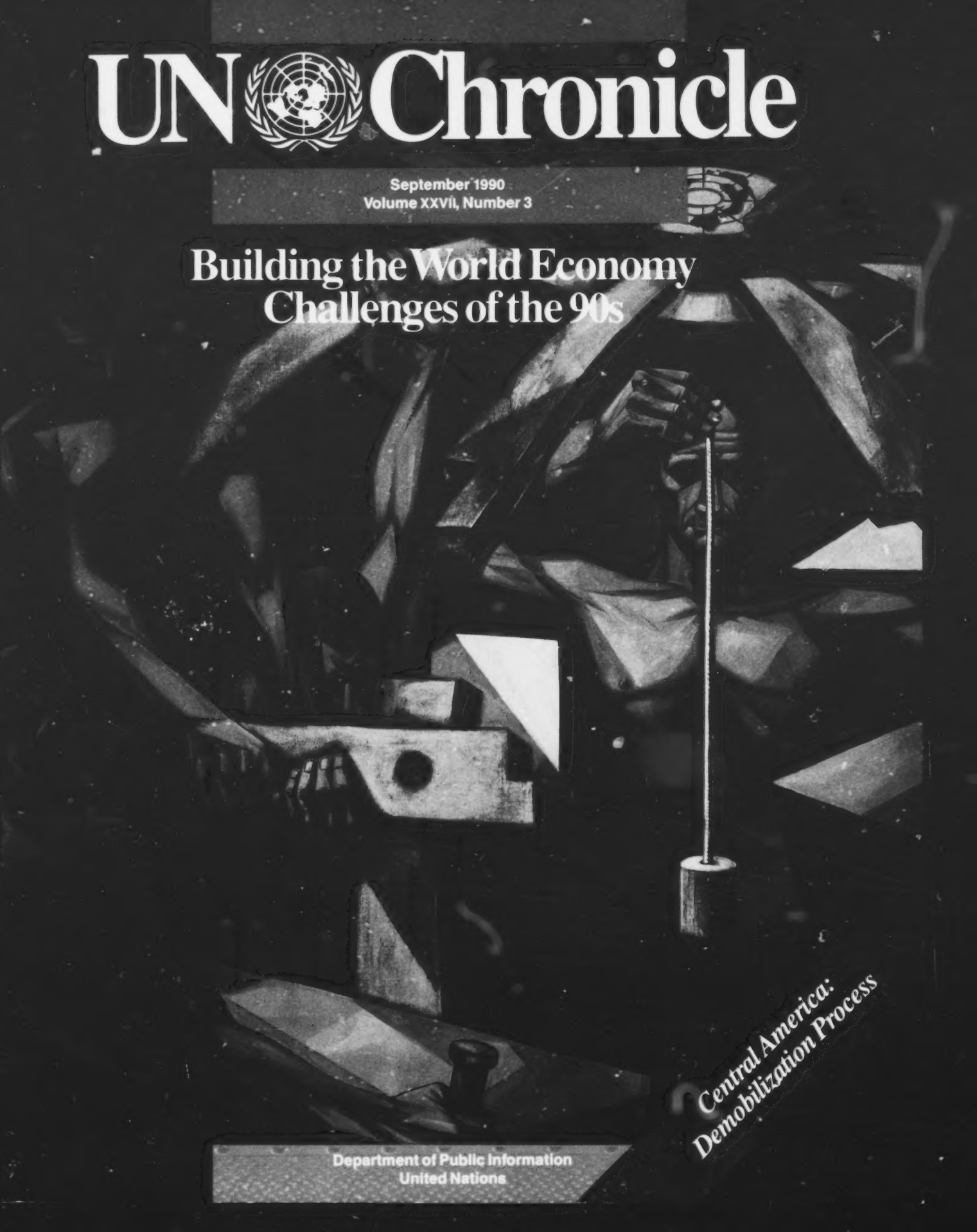
Building the World Economy Challenges of the 90s



Central America: Demobilization Process

Department of Public Information
United Nations

'Reconstructing a world torn by poverty'

Cover Illustration: The reconstruction of a world torn by poverty is emerging as one of the most compelling and unifying themes of the last decade of the century—a century that has witnessed great horrors and equally great hopes. The images in José Vela Zanetti's monumental mural at UN Headquarters are as powerful in expressing today's struggle against hunger and inequality as they were in depicting the resurrection of a war-torn world, the theme that originally inspired the Spanish artist. The photograph of the 12 x 60-foot mural was shot by UN photographer Milton B. Grant.

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A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

VOLUME XXVII Number 3 September 1990

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READEX FICHE

THE 38th FLOOR

Excerpts from statements by UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar made between 1 April and 30 June 1990

UN Photo 169197/Y Nagata

Joint action to combat drug abuse. . .

The disastrous phenomenon of drug production, trafficking and abuse is a clear example of the kind of problem that in an increasingly small and interdependent world must be tackled through joint efforts. As the problem is a global one, it requires a global response that only the United Nations can effectively provide. This is not a new task for the Organization, as it inherited these functions and responsibilities, when it was founded, from the League of Nations.

To the World Ministerial Summit on Drugs, London, United Kingdom, 9 April 1990

(See pp. 61-64)

Blanket over realities. . .

The danger is that, in dealing with issues of international concern, we too often lose sight of their human implications and moral dimensions. The particularities of the human predicament are too often eclipsed by concern with the legal or diplomatic plausibility or the political appeal of positions taken by Governments. Even the word "peace" can become an abstraction, an immense blanket thrown over the concrete realities of pain and suffering in the world today. Let us make no mistake about it: there cannot be a more sustained affront to human dignity than absolute poverty. As long as a proportion of the world's resources will continue to be allocated to such wasteful pursuits as the arms race, this affront will continue to darken the fate and future of an untold number of our fellow human beings.

Upon receiving the Onassis Foundation Athinai Prize for "Man and Mankind", Athens, Greece, 5 April 1990

Dignity and rights of people. . .

The first premise and a fundamental provision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is that the dignity and rights of each member of the human community are equal. Moreover, the Declaration makes clear that the rights it proclaims are not subject to national or cultural differences. The rush of current events, which reminds us strikingly of our interdependence and our common humanity, makes clear the significance and the vision of this affirmation of the universality of human rights.

We must therefore maintain and reinforce the existing international protection for human rights. Our efforts to create public awareness and spread information must permeate the entire breadth of international society to create a true universal culture of human rights. Our assistance programmes must be developed to give all countries the opportunity to strengthen national laws and institutions. The United Nations must step up its efforts to identify at an early stage all such violations and to act effectively to end them.

Another key challenge for our future work will be to enable people to participate more fully in decisions affecting their own lives. Over the last two or three years, democratic political institutions have been restored or established in a number of countries. Less noticeable, but equally important, has been the call by people, particularly in developing countries, for other forms of participation to supplement the democratic political process.

From the John Humphrey Human Rights Lecture at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 30 May 1990

To remain a force. . .

For the Non-Aligned Movement to remain a force in international affairs, it has to do more than contribute to the thinking which infuses debates in the Organization. It has to summon the capability of helping to resolve the international conflicts, actual or threatened, which affect international peace. Sad to say, a good many of these conflicts are those between non-aligned nations. Closely related to this is the lamentable phenomenon of developing countries devoting a large proportion of their slender resources to military outlays. This drains their economies and damages their prospects of social and economic progress. These matters are also, of course, related to the essential mandate of the United Nations. But, in handling them, the United Nations would be far better placed if its efforts were directly complemented and reinforced by those of the non-aligned countries.

At the Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Countries, New York, 24 April 1990

An inescapable response. . .

As long as international co-operation remains merely an idea to which we give no more than intellectual assent, as long as it means only a broader view of national interests, it will continue to encounter almost insurmountable obstacles in its application. But once Governments and public opinion alike come to see it as an inescapable response to the demands of our age, it will be able to develop and, in so doing, bring concrete rewards. There is enough evidence before us which points out that an interdependent world needs men whose vision extends to the entire world. The evidence can be gathered from any sphere of international life, political, economic or social.

At Comenius University, Bratislava, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, 8 May 1990

Forfeiting their future. . .

Our generation of men and women is in danger of forfeiting the future of our children. The wasting of natural resources and the contamination of air and water are reducing the options for the physically most vulnerable and politically most powerless segment of humanity—the children.

In observance of World Environment Day, New York, 5 June 1990

Nicaraguan resistance demobilizes, surrenders weapons

ONUCA mission deemed a success

UN Photo 157600/S. Johansen

Surrender of weapons to ONUCA at a Honduras camp.

Demobilization of 21,863 members of the Nicaraguan Resistance forces ended on 29 June, within the deadline set by the UN Security Council. The massive, complex and politically delicate operation was successfully carried out in 14 locations throughout Honduras and Nicaragua by the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA). Its 1,060 members are under the command of Major-General Agustín Quesada Gómez, a national of Spain.

"I am happy to be able to inform the Security Council that, at 1900 hours local time on 28 June 1990, demobilization had been completed at all locations, except for one . . .", Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar reported *(S/21379)*. Some remaining Resistance members were demobilized the following day and the last location closed.

Senior commanders of the Nicaraguan Resistance and their staff were demobilized on 27 June in the village of San Pedro de Lovago. The country's President, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, other top government officials, the Archbishop of Managua, Cardinal Pedro Obando y Bravo, and Major-General Quesada Gómez attended the ceremony.

Demobilization had begun in Honduras on 16 April, when 260 members of the Atlantic Front (Yatama) of the Resistance handed over their weapons and other military equipment to ONUCA officers at La Kiatara, in a remote Honduran part of Miskitia. The region, straddling Honduras and

Nicaragua, is mostly populated by the Miskito, an indigenous people.

Some 30 members of ONUCA's Venezuelan battalion used soldering torches, explosives and sledge-hammers to destroy or disable on the spot all surrendered weapons, as Major-General Quesada Gómez, senior ONUCA officers, some unarmed observers, a medical team and civilian support personnel stood by.

Over the next few weeks, 2,607 Resistance members were demobilized in La Kiatara and three other Honduran locations —Danlí, Yamales and Zacatal.

A slow start

In Nicaragua, the process had begun on 8 May, but moved slowly until the signing of the Managua Protocol on 30 May, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar reported *(S/21341)*. The Protocol, signed by President Chamorro and Israel Galeano (Commander Franklin of the Resistance), committed the Nicaraguan Government to resettle demobilized Resistance members in especially created "development areas", to give them economic aid and allow them to join a police force to be set up in those areas.

Resistance members totalling 19,614—16,361 of them armed—were demobilized in eight security zones and two temporary posts set up in Nicaragua by ONUCA.

Among the weapons of demobilized Resistance members in Honduras and Nicaragua which were destroyed were: 15,144 small arms (including AK 47s, other assault rifles, rifles and light machine-guns), 1,333 grenades, 1,282 grenade launchers, 146 mines, 137 light and medium mortars, 119 "Redeye" and SAM-7 surface-to-air missiles and four heavy machine guns.

"ONUCA was informed both by senior officers of the Nicaraguan Army and by the leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance themselves that the Resistance had always been a lightly armed and mobile force that hardly ever deployed heavy weapons inside Nicaragua", the Secretary-General stated.

Nevertheless, he added, ONUCA paid special attention to two categories of heavy weapons reportedly in the hands of the Resistance: heavy machine-guns and surface-to-air missiles.

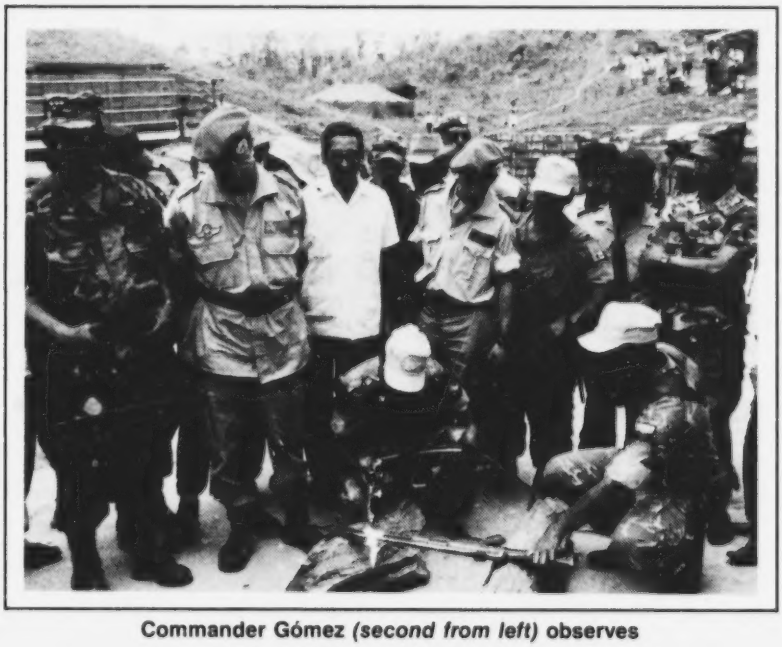
Explaining why only four heavy machine-guns had been handed in to ONUCA, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said that, according to the leader of the Resistance's Northern Front, all weapons had been returned to the original supplier before members of the Front returned to Nicaragua during April and May 1990.

"I have been given reason to believe that some of these weapons were disposed of in this way but that the bulk of them were known to have become unserviceable", Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar added.

As regards the 119 surface-to-air missiles handed over to ONUCA, "these figures approximate closely to what was expected", the Secretary-General assured the Security Council.

The commanders of the four Nicaraguan Resistance fronts—Northern, Central, Southern and Atlantic—had "solemnly assured ONUCA, both orally and in writing" that no arms or military equipment remained under their command or had been hidden, and that all combatants under their command had been demobilized, he added. In a letter to Major-General Quesada, the Nicaraguan Government had declared itself "fully satisfied" with the demobilization process.

Withdrawal of ONUCA's 800-strong Venezuelan battalion, which the Secretary-General said had served "with great distinction", was completed on 4 July, bringing to an end ONUCA's role in the demobilization process in Central America.



UN Photo 157598

Commander Gómez *(second from left)* observes the destruction of some arms.

A long, arduous road

The road to demobilization had been long and arduous. Clearing the last hurdles required intensive consultations among UN representatives, the outgoing Sandinista Government, the Nicaraguan Resistance and then President-elect Barrios de Chamorro. She took

office on 25 April after winning a UN-supervised election in February.

The process started on a positive note. At a 3 April meeting in Montelimar, Nicaragua, the five Central American Presidents accepted the Secretary-General's proposal for destruction of weapons received by ONUCA.

But in late April, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar expressed concern that ONUCA might be placed in a position "where members of the resistance not only would not hand over their weapons at the time of arrival to assembly points, but would retain possession of them with no deadline for handing them over".

In a 16 April aide-mémoire, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar stated that guarding or monitoring indefinitely a large number of armed members of the resistance in "security zones" within Nicaraguan territory would be "a highly dangerous assignment, given the current political situation in Nicaragua", and one that would be difficult to perform in practice within the parameters under which the UN operates.

He would find it "difficult, if not impossible", to recommend acceptance by the Security Council of such a proposal. But there was a breakthrough in Managua: after all-night negotiations, a series of agreements were signed in the early hours of 19 April by the Nicaraguan Government, the Resistance and Cardinal Obando y Bravo. These called for a cease-fire starting at 12 noon that day, security zones and a timetable for demobilization.

On 20 April, the Security Council expanded ONUCA's mandate so that it could monitor the cease-fire. Resolution 653 (1990) also authorized ONUCA to monitor the separation of forces resulting, in Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar's words, "from withdrawal of Nicaraguan Government forces from security zones and surrounding areas" *(S/21259)*.

The Group's mandate had already been widened on 27 March to include taking delivery of and destroying weapons, *matériel* and military equipment, including military uniforms, of the Nicaraguan resistance. By resolution 650 (1990), the Security Council authorized the addition of the Venezuelan battalion to the Observer Group. The original mandate had been to verify "cessation of aid to irregular forces and insurrectionist movements operating in the region and the non-use of the territory of one State for attacks on other States" *(S/21274)*.

UN Photo 175785/M. Grant

The 20 April Security Council meeting to expand ONUCA's mandate.

Back on track

On 4 May, the Security Council extended the ONUCA mandate for another six months, through 7 November 1990, and set 10 June as the target date for concluding the demobilization process. The Council unanimously adopted resolution 654 (1990) on the understanding that ONUCA's involvement in the cease-fire, separation of forces and demobilization process would lapse before that date.

In a 10-page progress report to the Council *(S/21274)*, the Secretary-General listed various complaints and incidents in Nicaragua and Honduras that had been investigated by the Observer Group.

In an updated report *(S/21274/Add.1)*, also before the Council, he expressed grave concern that demobilization in Nicaragua had not started on 25 April, as agreed, since certain Resistance members inside Nicaragua had refused to lay down their weapons. The need to get the process "quickly back on track" was stressed.

But difficulties continued. By 20 May, only 1,220 Resistance members had been demobilized. Security Council members expressed concern on 23 May at the slow pace and called on the Resistance to "meet fully and urgently the commitments it made in agreeing to demobilize".

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar told the Council that the average number being demobilized daily was about 100, whereas an average of 500 to 600 was required to complete demobilization by 10 June. The attitude of the leadership of the Nicaraguan Resistance to the demobilization process "had remained ambiguous", he added.

In further reports in June *(S/21341 and S/21349)*, Mr. Pérez de

UN Photo 157605/S Johansen

The operation was completed on 29 June.

Cuéllar kept the Council informed about the slowly unfolding situation. There had been "no serious violations" of the cease-fire by the Nicaraguan Army, he stated. While there had been some breaches of the agreement on separation of forces in certain areas, almost all had been quickly resolved.

The delay also provoked concern in the region. In a letter to the Secretary-General *(A/44/950-S/21316)* on 29 May, Guatemala warned that if demobilization was not completed by 10 June, the stability of democratic progress in Nicaragua "could be seriously affected". It would be "hazardous if the members of the Nicaraguan resistance were to remain, armed, in the security zones in violation of what was agreed", it stressed.

Although the demobilization rate showed a marked increase at the end of May and the beginning of June, three days before the 10 June deadline, only 6,834 Resistance members had been demobilized. The Council decided on 8 June to extend the deadline to 29 June. That final deadline was met.

Guatemala reconciliation: a first step

An agreement between the Guatemalan political parties and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) was signed on 1 June in Madrid, Spain, before representatives of the National Reconciliation Commission of Guatemala (CNR) and Francesc Vendrell, Deputy to Alvaro de Soto, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America. Mr. Vendrell attended the six-day meeting as an observer.

The El Escorial Agreement *(A/44/959)* ratifies the Basic Agreement for the Search for Peace by Political Means, signed in Oslo, Norway, on 30 March by URNG and CNR.

Salvador peace talks continue

No agreement yet, but Mexico City round 'positive'

A second round of direct peace talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) ended in Mexico City on 25 June. A third round was set for late July.

The talks aim at reaching a negotiated political settlement by mid-September for El Salvador's 10-year old civil war, which has reportedly claimed some 70,000 lives.

Although no agreement was needed, the Mexico City meetings were described by Alvaro de Soto, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, as "positive" and "without precedent" in the history of contacts between both parties.

An agenda and schedule for the whole negotiation process had been agreed at the first round of talks in Caracas, Venezuela, from 16 to 21 May. Mr. de Soto called that agreement "a substantial advance".

Human rights, the role of the armed forces, reform of civil, political, and legal systems, reintegration of FMLN members into the life of the country and verification by the UN were to be dealt with in subsequent talks.

Breakthrough in Geneva

The negotiating process was launched in Geneva on 4 April when the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN signed a two-page accord to quickly end the armed conflict, "promote the democratization of the country, guarantee unrestricted respect for human rights and reunify Salvadoran society". This would have to be "verified by the UN, subject to Security Council approval", it was stated.

The Geneva document was negotiated under the auspices of Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar, who had been mandated by the Security Council, in resolution 637 (1989), to pursue a good offices mission in Central America.

At a press conference after the accord was signed, Mr. de Soto said that either the Secretary-General or he would actively participate in all talks. The negotiating process was expected to be intense, continuous and uninterrupted. Shuttle diplomacy and direct talks would be used.

As agreed, a six-week period of "preparation and reflection" in April and May followed the Geneva meeting. During that time, Mr. de Soto held intensive consultations with both parties to lay the groundwork for the Caracas round. Contacts also continued with other countries in a position to help to achieve peace in El Salvador.

Earlier attempt failed

An earlier attempt at dialogue had collapsed in 1989 when hostilities escalated in El Salvador. The two sides had held a three-day meeting in Mexico City in September of that year and one-day talks the following month in San José, Costa Rica.

Efforts to relaunch the process took place in December 1989 when the five Central American Presidents asked the Secretary-General to bring together both parties and involve States with interests in the region more directly in the peace efforts.

On 12 January 1990, a spokesman for Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar announced that at the request of the Government and the FMLN, the Secretary-General had accepted an intermediary role in new peace talks.

UN Photo 175914

On 4 April in Geneva, the Secretary-General *(second from right)* at a meeting with the representatives of El Salvador *(far right)* and the FMLN *(centre)*. Alvaro de Soto *(far left)* stands next to Geneva Chief of Protocol Mehmet Ulkumen.

Aid for 2 million Central American refugees—$121 million

International aid is on the way for an estimated 2 million refugees and displaced persons in Central America—the legacy of more than a decade of turmoil in that region. A total of $121 million was pledged for 59 projects at the First International Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held at Headquarters on 27 and 28 June.

The largest contributors were Sweden, the European Community, Italy and the United States, in that order. A total of 72 countries, as well as 76 inter-regional and non-governmental organizations, attended the Meeting. Some 20 Governments pledged contributions.

Members of the Follow-Up Committee—Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua—reported on implementation of the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, adopted at the 1989 International Conference on Central American Refugees held in Guatemala City. Most refugees and displaced persons in the region are in Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras and Mexico.

In a Final Declaration, the Meeting asked affected countries to agree that projects in favour of refugees should promote the participation of women, development of children, conservation of ethnic and cultural values and protection of the environment. Refugees who were not repatriated should be progressively incorporated into their countries of asylum, the Meeting emphasized.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar told the Meeting that he could offer today "a much more optimistic assessment" of the situation in Central America than last year.

It would not be possible to achieve a solution to the refugee problem without a sustained development plan. For that reason, the Conference was an important part of the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America, he said. The $4.3 billion Special Plan to help reconstruct the region as peace is attained was adopted by the General Assembly in 1988 (resolution 42/231).

UNHCR 1705/09 1987/B Kunzi

Nicaraguan refugees at a health care facility in Costa Rica.

Aid asked for Nicaraguan repatriation

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said on 25 April that UN operations under the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV) will cost the Organization some $56.8 million for the first year and asked countries to fund the effort.

At a one-day "pledging conference" at Headquarters, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar explained that the money will be used to repatriate some 90,000 members of the Nicaraguan Resistance, along with their families, demobilized in Honduras and Costa Rica and take care of their immediate needs until they are integrated into development activities.

The Organization of American States component of CIAV will be responsible for those demobilized within Nicaraguan territory and their families, he explained.

Central American Presidents: 'No peace without development'

"There can be no peace without development", the five Central American Presidents declared at their first economic summit, held in the old colonial city of Antigua, Guatemala (15-17 June).

With the regional peace process gaining momentum and the economic reconstruction of the region becoming a matter of increasing concern, the Presidents reaffirmed a principle already stated at their historical 1987 summit in Esquipulas, Guatemala.

Reflecting the political change of guard in the region, the nine-page Antigua Declaration and the 17-point Central American Economic Plan of Action *(A/44/958)* were signed by Presidents Rafael Angel Calderón Fournier of Costa Rica, Alfredo Cristiani-Burkard of El Salvador, Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arévalo of Guatemala, Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero of Honduras and Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of Nicaragua. Panama's President Guillermo Endara Galimany signed as an invited Observer.

"War and violence are acts of human cruelty, but poverty is an act of human abandonment . . .", the Declaration states. Convinced "that peace is inseparable from social justice and that full democracy cannot be consolidated in Central America so long as hunger and poverty exist, we undertake to promote development which, today, is the new name of peace", the Presidents affirmed.

The Plan of Action calls for the process of regional integration and development to start "as quickly as possible". Before the end of the year, each country will prepare a list of projects to rebuild the physical infrastructure—transport corridors, communications, customs, ports and electrical power. A regional programme will then be formulated.

Also, by the end of September, each country will prepare a co-ordinated agricultural policy, present proposals toward the regional co-ordination of foreign trade and promote programmes to minimize the short-term impact of economic adjustment on the most unprotected groups.

A regional science and technology policy and programme will be designed before the end of the year. Economic adjustment programmes and industrial reconversion policies will also be co-ordinated. In July, a Central American consultation and co-ordination forum on external debt is expected to be set up.

Preparing dyes for wool in central Ecuador.

UN Photo 155077

UN mission dispatched to Haiti

Joao Augusto de Medicis, a senior diplomat from Brazil, was appointed on 19 June by Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar as his Personal Representative for Haiti. Mr. de Medicis will advise the Secretary-General on assistance which the UN could provide to the Haitian authorities during the upcoming electoral process.

UN assistance to help organize elections in Haiti, including the sending of observers, was requested by that country's President, Ertha Pascal Trouillot, in a 15 March letter to the Secretary-General.

A UN fact-finding mission was sent to Haiti at the end of March. Its members included Mariano Fiallos Oyangure, President of Nicaragua's Supreme Electoral Council, and Horacio Boneo, Deputy Head of the United Nations Observer Mission for the Verification of Elections in Nicaragua.

On 30 May, the Secretary-General's spokesman said that Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar had read the report of the two-week mission, "which was of a technical nature" and was waiting for the promulgation of the electoral law in Haiti, before holding further consultations with President Trouillot's Government about the possibility of UN involvement in the elections.

Security Council urges support for UN peace-keeping operations

Security Council members on 30 May stated that they have been encouraged by recent achievements of UN peace-keeping and are ready to consider launching new peace-keeping operations, "as and when necessary in the interest of international peace and security".

They noted with satisfaction that peace-keeping operations had become a valuable instrument in facilitating the settlement of international disputes. Recent successful peace-keeping operations had contributed to the enhanced standing and effectiveness of the UN.

Council members expressed deep satisfaction with the growing international support for UN peace-keeping and, in particular, with the participation of a growing number of Member States in the operations. It was vital that adequate resources be available to prepare, deploy and maintain those operations, especially "in view of the new challenges in prospect".

Council President Klaus Törnudd of Finland, in a statement on behalf of Council members, stressed that a peace-keeping operation was essentially a temporary measure, intended to facilitate the resolution of conflicts and disputes. Its mandate was not automatically renewable.

Peace-keeping, Council members stated, should never be construed as a substitute for the ultimate goal—an early, negotiated settlement. In light of that, they would "continue to examine carefully the mandate of each operation and, when necessary, vary it in response to prevailing circumstances".

UN Photo 151009/J Isaac

Peace-keeping operations must have a stable financial basis, the Security Council declared.

Council members also urged UN Member States to respond positively and rapidly to requests from Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar to contribute resources—financial, human and material—for peace-keeping operations. Council members emphasized that the operations must be launched and maintained on a sound and secure financial basis, and stressed the importance of full and timely payments of assessed contributions. They said the operations must be planned and conducted with maximum efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

They urged host countries and all parties involved to facilitate the successful and safe deployment and functioning of such operations to enable the fulfilment of their mandates, including the early conclusion of status-of-forces agreements with the UN and the provision of appropriate infrastructure support. They also recognized the principle that peace-keeping should only be undertaken with the consent of the host countries and the parties concerned.

Security Council approves UN plan for Western Sahara

MINURSO to supervise elections

UN Photo 131151/Y. Nagata

The people of Western Sahara are about to determine their future.

The Security Council on 27 June approved a plan for a settlement of the Western Sahara question, under which the Organization would supervise a cease-fire between Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) and conduct a referendum in which the Western Sahara people would choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

In unanimously adopting resolution 658 (1990), the Council approved a report *(S/21360)* setting forth a timetable of up to 35 weeks for a UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, to be known by its French acronym MINURSO.

Headed by Johannes Manz, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, the Mission would comprise an integrated support group of UN civilian, military and security units. Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar predicted that the UN operation would be "large and complicated".

The Council, in resolution 658 (1990), also welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to send a technical mission to the area to refine the plan's administrative aspects. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar was to report as soon as possible on estimated costs of the Mission, on the understanding that such report should be the basis on which the Council would establish the Mission.

Expressing full support for the mission of good offices which the Secretary-General has been jointly pursuing with the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Council called on the two parties to the Western Sahara question—Morocco and POLISARIO—to co-operate with them in their efforts to promote an early settlement for Western Sahara.

Background

On 20 September 1988, the Council had received an outline of settlement proposals by the Secretary-General and the OAU, which was accepted by the parties on 30 August 1988. It then adopted resolution 621 (1988), specifying the appointment of a Special Representative for Western Sahara and the formulation of a referendum plan. Hector Gros Espiell was named as the Special Representative as of 19 October 1988. He was succeeded on 19 January 1990 by Mr. Manz.

Implementation plan

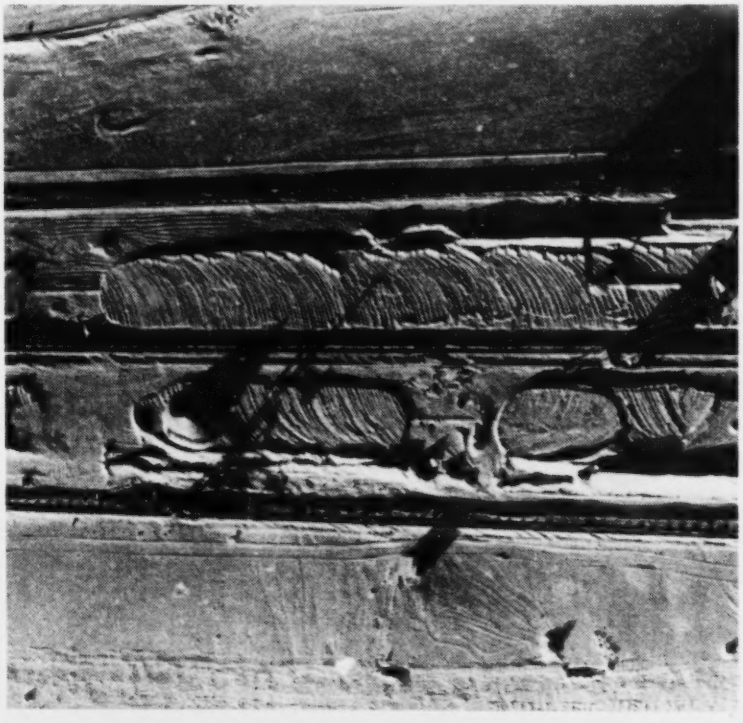
A Technical Commission established by the Secretary-General on 30 June 1989, in consultation with OAU and the parties to the conflict, worked out the specifics of the plan, which would be carried out by the UN in co-operation with OAU, whose representatives would act as official observers.

During a transition period, it was stated:

- The Special Representative, acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, would have sole and exclusive responsibility over all matters relating to the referendum, its organization and conduct.
- He would be assisted by an integrated group of United Nations civilian, military and security units, which he would head and direct, to be known as MINURSO.
- There would be a cease-fire monitored by UN military personnel, followed by an exchange of prisoners of war under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- Morocco would undertake an appropriate, substantial and phased reduction of its troops in the Territory.
- Combatants on each side would be confined to locations specified by the Special Representative and monitored by UN military personnel.
- The UN would organize and conduct a referendum, and issue the necessary regulations for that purpose. Voting would be by secret ballot, with arrangements made for those who could not read or write.
- The UN would also monitor other aspects of administration in the territory, especially the maintenance of law and order, to ensure the necessary conditions for the holding of a free and fair referendum.
- After proclamation of an amnesty, political prisoners would be released. All laws or regulations which might impede the holding of a free and fair referendum would be suspended to the extent the Special Representative deemed necessary.
- All refugees and other Western Saharans resident outside the Territory and wishing to return would be enabled to do so by the UN, after the latter had established their right to vote.
- The referendum would be scheduled 24 weeks after a cease-fire came into effect. Its results should be proclaimed within 72 hours.
- Neighbouring Algeria and Mauritania would do their utmost to ensure that transitional arrangements and results of the referendum were respected.
- All Western Saharans, aged 18 and over counted in the 1974 census, will have the right to vote in the referendum, whether they are currently present in the Territory, outside as refugees or for other reasons. The Identification Commission will update the 1974 census to provide a current basis for issuing lists of qualified voters. A census of Saharan refugees living outside the Territory will be taken, with assistance from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The transition period would begin with the cease-fire and end with the proclamation of the referendum results. After that, the UN would continue to be responsible for monitoring either the withdrawal of Moroccan troops or the demobilization of POLISARIO troops, depending on the outcome of the referendum. It was estimated that that period could run from four to six weeks.

Another four weeks would be needed for the withdrawal of UN personnel and equipment from the Territory. The presence of MINURSO in the Territory would thus last up to 35 weeks.



UN Photo 131154/Y. Nagata

Phosphate deposits are among the territory's natural resources.

Namibia to get $697-million international aid package

Newly-independent nation joins UN

A $697-million international aid package, pledged at a donor conference held at UN Headquarters on 21 and 22 June, is expected to boost Namibia's reconstruction and development efforts over the next four years. The newly-independent southern African nation had become the newest UN Member State on 23 April.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar told the meeting that "a healthy climate for investments in both the public and the private sectors already exists". Assistance to Namibia was vital because a stable nation would "serve as a beacon of hope for peaceful change in South Africa and stability in the region as a whole".

Independence had created new requirements and raised expectations, particularly among the 30 per cent unemployed of the labour force, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said. Many among the 44,000 repatriated Namibians still needed to be resettled. The new State had also inherited a 700-million rand (some

UN Photo 175708/M. Grant

Namibia's flag—raised at UN Headquarters on 23 April.

$263 million) debt from the previous administration.

President Sam Nujoma, in his first official appearance at UN Headquarters as Namibia's Head of State, declared that his country did not want to become perpetually dependent on foreign aid. Such aid during the coming years should help "lay the foundations for long-term, self-sustaining development", he told the donor meeting.

Namibia had set in motion its own brand of democracy, Mr. Nujoma said. His Government wanted to ensure a more dynamic role for the private sector, while at the same time fostering the social and economic interests of the poor and weak and supporting affirmative action programmes.

The donor conference was attended by representatives of UN Member States, as well as international and intergovernmental agencies.

The aid would not include credits or loans that Namibia might receive from international development banks.

More than 50 countries promised assistance, some tied to specific projects. The largest donors were the European Economic Community, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, South Africa, Sweden and the United States.

Namibian Foreign Affairs Minister Theo Ben Gurirab assured donors that their support would be translated into "realistic and successful" development projects for the benefit of all Namibians.

On 22 June, he told the press that although the amount pledged was lower than the $810 million in external assistance required by Namibia's 1990-1992 investment and development programme, it would help his country overcome its deficit and begin priority planning.

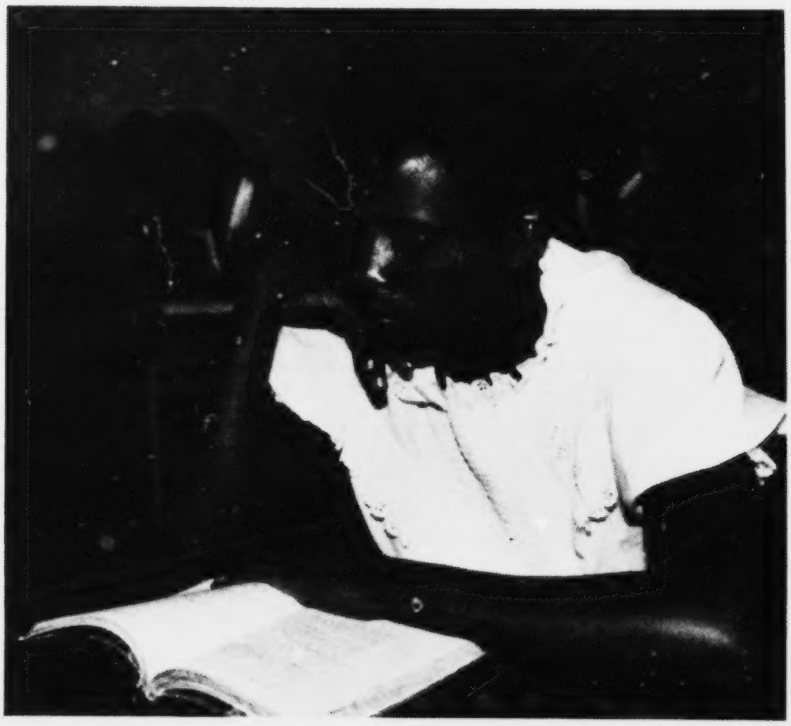
The programme had been prepared by the Namibian Government, with technical help from the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under whose auspices the donor conference was held.

Donors had before them a general policy statement by the Namibian Government, a public investment programme, including projects with estimated costs, an overview of the country's economic and financial situation, and a set of policy recommendations for private sector development.

The policy statement described Namibia's economic system as mixed. Priority would be given to agriculture and rural development, education and training, health care—including clean water supplies—and housing.

A dynamic private sector is a key objective of the Namibian Government. An investment code, being drawn up by the Government, will offer incentives for projects that emphasize employment and training. The code is expected to be ready for a private sector conference to be organized in Windhoek in November 1990 with UNDP help.

A Namibian student in Oshakati—education is a major key to accelerated development.



UN Photo 157300

And then they were 159. . .again

Namibia was the 160th State Member of the United Nations for only 39 days—from its admission on 23 April to 22 May, when Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged to form a single State: the Republic of Yemen. The membership tally then dropped to 159—with Namibia now occupying the 159th spot, which formerly belonged to Antigua and Barbuda, a 1981 recruit. The new Republic of Yemen represented a gain for "peaceful and constructive negotiations", as Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar put it, but a loss, if only numerically, for the Organization.

A truly historic moment

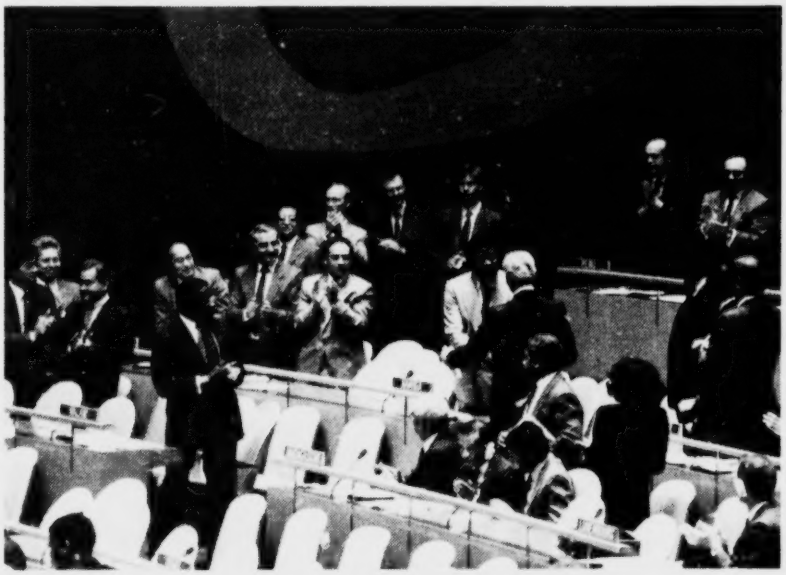
A standing ovation greeted Prime Minister Hage G. Geingob as he was escorted by UN Chief of Protocol Ali Teymour to his country's seat in the General Assembly Hall on 23 April, minutes after the Republic of Namibia was admitted by acclamation as the 160th Member State of the United Nations.

General Assembly President Joseph Garba called it "a truly historic moment". Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said it was "with considerable emotion and pride" that he welcomed the new nation. Mr. Geingob pledged that Namibia accepted its full responsibilities "as sacrosanct" and would fulfil all obligations as a Member of the world body.

"We are committed to building a democracy in which violent confrontation and the politics of hate will be a thing of the past", Prime Minister Geingob stated. Accompanied by Assembly President Garba and the Secretary-General, he went outside the General Assembly Hall to the area just behind the First Avenue fence for the traditional flag-raising ceremony, which marks the admission of all new UN Members.

As the Namibian flag fluttered outside the Delegates' Entrance to the Assembly Hall, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar remembered "the many people, Namibians and others, who dedicated their lives' work, and sometimes their very lives, so that this day might dawn".

They then proceeded to the public lobby to open a special exhibition —"Namibia, New Nation, New Need"—organized by the Department of Public Information, in association with the Council for Namibia. The show which presents some 100 photographs—in both colour and black and white—of the land and its people, has been viewed by thousands of visitors to the UN throughout the summer. It will travel later this year to UN regional centres and ultimately find a permanent home in Namibia.



UN Photo 175701/J. Isaac

Namibian Prime Minister Geingob being seated for the first time in the General Assembly.

Namibia's admission to the UN was unanimously recommended to the General Assembly by the Security Council on 17 April in resolution 652 (1990). The Secretary-General said that Namibia's independence had involved "a protracted and often complex process", almost every phase of which had been beset with difficulties. "At many a stage on the way, hopes wavered and lives were lost", he said.

Namibia became independent on 21 March with the help of the United Nations and the international community at large. The former German colony had been administered by South Africa since 1920.

The UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), which numbered almost 8,000 at its peak strength, acted as international overseer of the independence process. During the nine-month, $373.4 million operation, UNTAG helped keep the peace and guarantee a free and fair electoral process, culminating in the November 1989 internationally-supervised elections.

Men and women from 109 nations staffed some 200 UNTAG outposts and other installations, including the operation's headquarters in the capital city of Windhoek. About 43,000 Namibian exiles scattered throughout 40 countries were repatriated before independence, with the assistance of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

'A true partner in the decolonization process'

UN Namibia Council and Fund to be dissolved

The UN Council for Namibia is expected to be officially dissolved by the General Assembly at its resumed forty-fourth session later this year. The UN Fund for Namibia also would be phased out after current programmes are completed.

Both measures were recommended by acclamation on 19 June by the Council for Namibia itself. Its programmes, activities and assets would be transferred to the Namibian Government. A new committee, to be created by the General Assembly, would serve as trustee of the Fund until its closing.

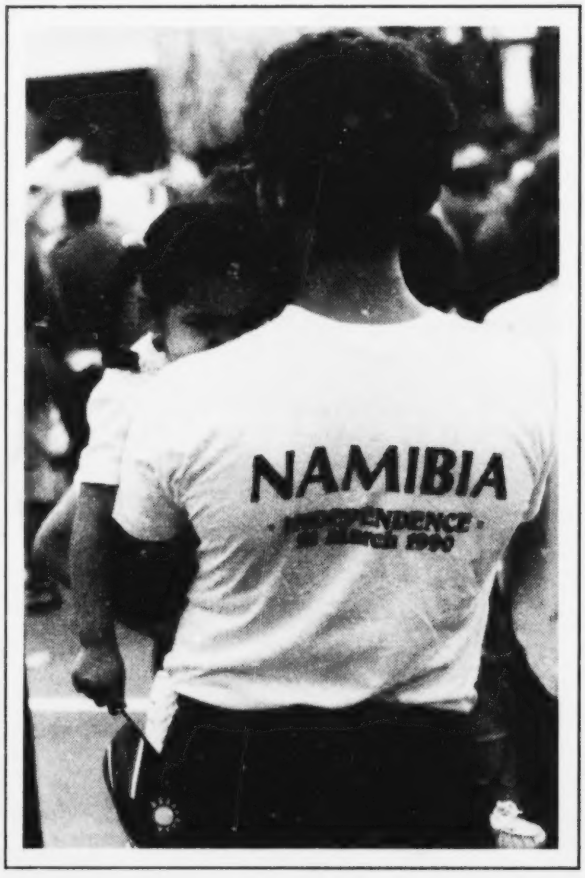
The Council for Namibia also recommended the relocation to Namibia of the Zambia-based UN Institute for Namibia and the UN Vocational Training Centre for Namibia, now in Angola. The Secretary-General would determine the future of the Namibia Secondary Technical School, located in the Congo. He would be asked also to provide assistance to Namibia in preparing a comprehensive national census.

Council President Peter D. Zuze of Zambia said that he hoped that "the new nation, the baby that has been born, will grow into a strong, happy, fulfilled adult". By recommending its own dissolution, the Council was writing the last chapter in its 23-year history in service of the new African nation.

The Council was established in 1967 to administer the territory until independence but, in reality, South Africa controlled most practical aspects of the country's administration.

The Council devoted itself to advocating Namibia's independence, representing the disenfranchised territory internationally, promoting the conservation of its natural resources and training young Namibians to run their nation after independence.

The Council first called for its own end in a Declaration adopted at a special plenary meeting held in Windhoek from 9 to 11 April. It was the first time ever that the Council had met in Namibia.



UN Photo 157277/J. Isaac

At the opening session, Namibian President Sam Nujoma said that the Council had been "a true partner in the decolonization process" of his country. Its programmes and institutions had played a vital role in providing the necessary skills to Namibians, essential for the administration of an independent nation, he stated.

Straightening a skewed economy

The following text was adapted from the *Namibia Preliminary Economic Review*, prepared by the World Bank at the request of the Namibian Government.

The post-independence Namibian Government has inherited an economy of sharp contrasts. From some viewpoints, Namibia can be seen as a prosperous middle-income country. Per capita income is about $1,200 annually—one of the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. The country's physical infrastructure is among the best in the region; its telecommunications system, one of the most efficient; its public administration, highly developed.

At the same time, Namibia has a severely skewed income-distribution pattern. A tiny minority enjoys incomes and health and education services at levels comparable to those in Western Europe, while the vast majority lives in conditions barely above subsistence, with highly inadequate public services.

Although per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in 1988 was about $1,200, the white population—5 per cent of the total population—had an estimated per capita GDP of $16,500. The figure for non-whites within the modern economic activities—about 40 per cent of total—was estimated at $750. As for the rest—a non-white population dependent upon agriculture and informal work activity—it was estimated at $85.

In addition to this, the Government has inherited a stagnating economy, with its unemployment rate estimated at 30 per cent.

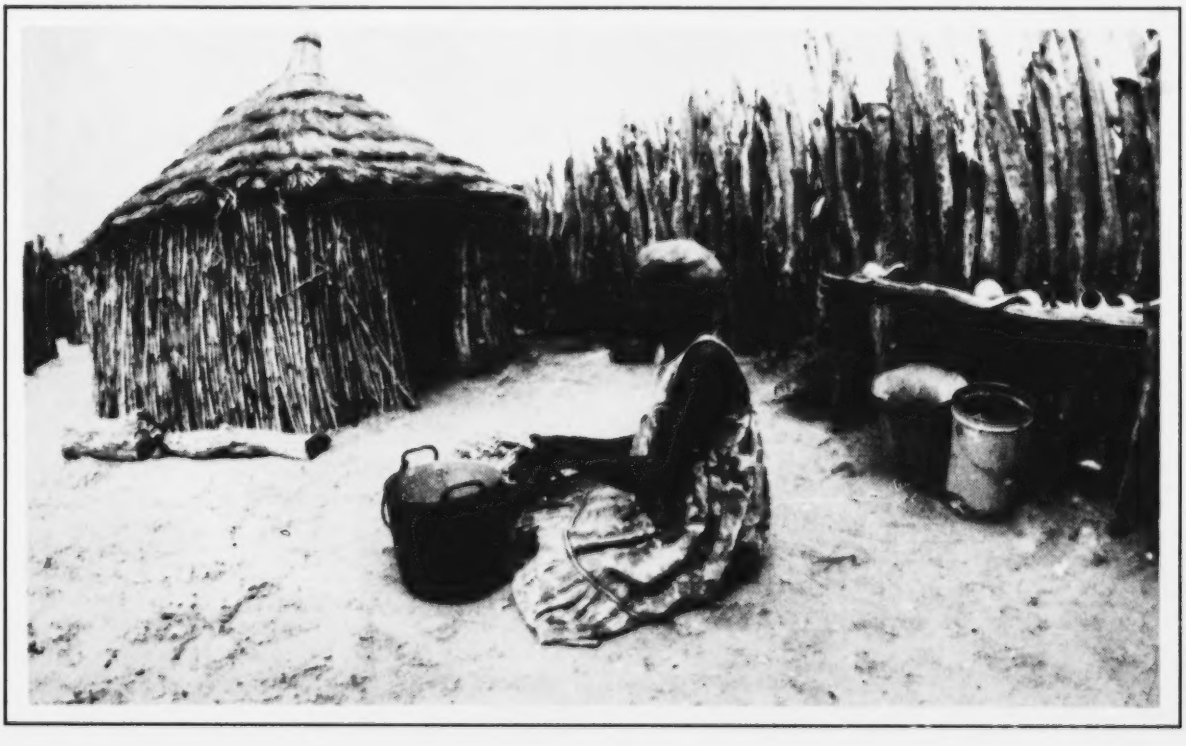
Three main challenges

The Namibian Government faces three main economic challenges: reactivate the economy, reduce income disparities, and restrain and redirect public expenditures.

For the past 20 years, the Namibian economy has performed in a lacklustre way. After expanding rapidly at 9 per cent per year during the 1960s, the economy's growth rate fell to zero during the 1970s.

Owing to continued population growth, per capita GDP declined without interruption during the past decade. At independence, it was 23 per cent lower than in 1980.

The second challenge facing the Government is closely related to the first. The extreme disparities in income distribution and the provision of social services are in good part, if not solely, the results of



UN Photo 157247/J. Isaac

apartheid. With independence, *apartheid* policies disappeared. The heretofore disenfranchised and neglected majority will rightfully expect to partake in greater measure of the country's income and wealth.

Addressing the country's equity problem at an acceptable pace without jeopardizing growth is a closely-related matter. The equity issue should be resolved while avoiding the type of too-quick and too-expensive solutions that in many other developing countries have led to high inflation and low (or even negative) growth.

As for the third challenge, the Government faces a major fiscal problem. It has inherited an oversized public administration and an undesirable composition of public expenditures, some of which are of questionable efficiency. The Government needs to change the composition of expenditures, increase their efficiency and contain their growth, a difficult task that requires time and deft economic management.

Reducing expenditures while attempting to provide more and better health, education and housing services to the majority of the population will be a difficult management problem; in the short run, expenditures are likely to rise.

Over the next few years, redirection of social Government expenditures towards the poorer part of the population is needed, which up to now has been concentrated mainly in the northern areas, near the border with Angola.

It will be necessary also to increase maintenance expenditures and public investment, with emphasis on the northern region and on the needs associated with possible migration of part of the poor northern population to the more developed southern areas.

Policies to stimulate the development of strong, small and medium scale enterprises might also be appropriate, with the twin objectives of fostering development of indigenous entrepreneurship and reinforcing the drive for employment creation in the modern sector.

UN Photo 157251/J. Isaac

External aid a must

Increasing tax rates, while feasible, might not be advisable, as the tax burden is already at developed-country levels; it is important to maintain an attractive economic environment for the private sector. There is room for broadening the tax base and reducing overly generous exemptions, but these changes would require further analytical work; the scope for change in the short run appears limited. The fiscal deficit, therefore, is likely to increase in the immediate future.

In the medium term, increases in tax revenues are likely to arise from economic growth. There should also be scope for revenue increases from broadening of the tax base.

An adequate level of external financing for social expenditures on health, education and housing—preferably on concessional terms—would forestall such an outcome and give the Government a breathing space to examine these issues, devise solutions and put in place an expenditure reduction and rationalization programme that does not jeopardize either growth or equity.

Fishing and mining

The private sector's willingness to invest will be affected by two closely related factors: business confidence and the investment climate. The Government's approach to economic management is conducive to private sector growth, and prospects for a speedy reactivation of the economy are good.

Mining and fishing would constitute the two main sources of growth during the next two years. With the lifting of sanctions, exports of mining products, especially uranium, are expected to grow at the rate of 9.7 per cent in 1990, 3.2 per cent in 1991 and 2.5 per cent in 1992.

Fishing, so far a minor activity, is likely to become one of the most important economic activities. The Namibian Sea is one of the largest and most productive coastal fishing grounds in the world. But owing to the country's uncertain political status before independence, there was no internationally recognized coastal State management authority. Fishing took place almost freely, with few benefits accruing to the country.

Soon after independence, the Government proclaimed a 200-mile exclusive economic zone and prohibited all fishing. It is estimated that with proper management, after stocks are given a chance to recover, the Benguela current could yield a sustainable annual catch of 3 million metric tons, equivalent to $3 billion, approximately half of which would be in Namibian waters.

The impact of the fishery sector on Namibia's income will depend on the extent to which catch translates into foreign exchange earnings for Namibian residents. At worst, Namibia would receive income from fishing licenses only; at best, it could capture the entire catch proceeds. Foreign exchange earnings from commercial fishing licenses and from Namibia's own fishing fleets are estimated at $200 million in 1990.

Finally, agriculture also has the potential to become a source of growth in the medium term, if appropriate investments in irrigation are undertaken. The Government is aiming at reducing the productivity gap between communal and commercial farming through the provision of research and extension services to communal farmers. Agriculture is expected to grow at around 3 to 4 per cent per year during 1991-1992.

After two decades of economic stagnation, the lifting of sanctions and the newly internalized income from fishing activities are likely to give the Namibian economy a boost that may bring GDP growth up to 6.4 per cent in 1990. The boost is likely to spill over into 1991, after which growth is likely to slow down and may approach the rate of population growth.

By the mid 1990s, growth might also stem from the establishment and eventual production of fish-processing industrial activities and higher productivity of communal farming.

Namibia's development strategy

The recent General Policy Statement of the Namibian Government states that the welfare of the people would be promoted through policies that:

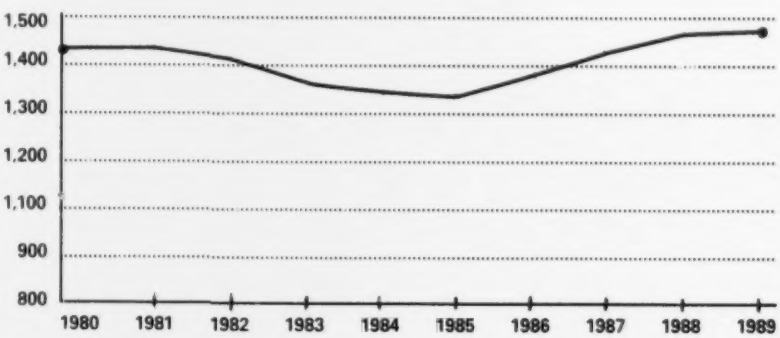
- ensure that every citizen has access to public facilities and services;
- raise and maintain the level of nutrition and public health, and the standard of living;
- guarantee equality of opportunity for women; and
- protect and maintain the ecosystems and living natural resources.

In accordance with these policies, the main thrust of the Government's expenditure programme for fiscal 1990/1991 is to provide better health, education, housing and potable water to the majority of the population; improve research and extension services; and undertake small-scale irrigation schemes to stimulate agricultural growth.

At the same time, the Government intends to increase the efficiency of public services and to make them more broadly available, while stepping up maintenance and investment expenditures to protect and extend the country's existing infrastructure.

GDP at Factor Cost, 1980-1989

(Million 1980 Rands)



Namibia's real gross domestic product (GDP) has been stagnant for close to 20 years. After growing at an average annual rate of 9 per cent during the 1960s, as the mining sector flourished, it stagnated during the 1970s and crawled forward at a dismal 0.2 average annual rate during the 1980s. In 1985, Namibia's GDP sunk to its lowest point—a full 7 per cent below the 1980 peak. After a brief recovery (1986-1988), it leveled off in 1989. By the end of the decade, real GDP stood barely 1 per cent above the 1980 mark. Drought, sanctions against South Africa—to which Namibia's economy is tied—and political uncertainty, which inhibited private sector investment, were said to have triggered the country's economic decline in the 1980s.

Source: World Bank.

ANTI-APARTHEID NOTES

Nelson Mandela thanks UN for efforts to secure his release; urges continued sanctions against South Africa

UN Photo 176005/P. Sudhakaran

Mr. Mandela at the UN on 22 June.

On 22 June 1990, Nelson Mandela, Deputy President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), spoke from the rostrum of the General Assembly, thanking the United Nations for its efforts to secure his release and that of other South African political prisoners. He then urged the United Nations and individual Governments to continue the sanctions which they had imposed on South Africa.

"Nothing which has happened in South Africa calls for a revision of the positions that this Organization has taken in its struggle against *apartheid*", Mr Mandela told the Special Committee against *Apartheid* meeting convened in his honour. "We, therefore, strongly urge that there be no relaxation of existing measures. The sanctions that have been imposed by the United Nations and by individual Governments should remain in place."

Mr. Mandela said his appearance at the United Nations was a moving moment for him since he stood among friends and people of conscience. "We know this because we know what you did over the decades to secure my release and the release of other South African political prisoners from Pretoria's dungeons."

At the initiative of the ANC, he said, a process had begun which could lead to a just political settlement in South Africa. However, a lot still remained to be done before it could be said that a climate conducive to negotiations had been created. The fact that a good beginning had been made should not

lead anyone to conclude that further progress was assured or that there would not be major obstacles to confront in the future.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar welcomed Mr. Mandela as "a champion of freedom and justice for all". His presence at the UN was a landmark in the Organization's long involvement in the struggle by the people of South Africa against the *apartheid* system, he said.

General Assembly President, Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria, said that Mr. Mandela had emerged as a "unifying force bringing hope to a tormented country". The Chairman of the Special Committee, Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria, stated that Mr. Mandela had become the moral conscience of the world.

Change begins in South Africa, but violence persists

Changes have already begun to take place for the creation of an appropriate climate in which negotiations between the political parties and movements in South Africa could take place, Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim Farah said on 19 June in Johannesburg, at the end of his 10-day fact-finding mission to that country.

Mr. Farah headed a team of senior UN officials sent to South Africa on 9 June by Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar to gather information on measures taken to end the *apartheid* system. The "important" policy initiatives announced by President F. W. de Klerk last February had been warmly welcomed by all organizations the UN mission had met, Mr. Farah said.

However, the mission had noted with concern the alarming degree of violence occurring in many parts of South Africa. The Secretary-General's envoy called for confidence-building measures to reduce political violence. The UN supported the view that the *apartheid* system must be "ended through negotiations", he stated.

Oil embargo violations tracked down

Ships with petroleum-bearing capabilities, which made port calls in South Africa, could be a major element in clandestine violations of the General Assembly's oil embargo against that country, the UN body monitoring the embargo reported.

The Intergovernmental Working Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa stated on 12 June that it was still investigating 415 unclarified port calls made in South Africa in 1988 and 1989 by ships with some 22 million tons of petroleum cargo capacity.

The Working Group recommended that countries which have banned crude oil exports to South Africa also include petroleum products in their legislation.

Other news

- More than $12 million for various UN trust funds and programmes for southern Africa were pledged and contributed on 19 April by 34 Governments.
- The latest register of sports contacts with South Africa (January-December 1989) was released on 30 May. The register is an important tool to help ensure the total boycott of *apartheid* in sports.
- A draft Bill of Rights for South Africa—prepared by the South African Law Commission—which explicitly bans racial discrimination was presented on 29 June at a press conference at Headquarters. Commission Chairman Judge Hendrik van Heerden said the document had been accepted in principle by the South African Government in February.
- The International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa was observed at Headquarters on 15 June, on the fourteenth anniversary of the killings in Soweto of black school children protesting *apartheid* in South Africa.

UN Photo 178000/M. Grant

Joseph N. Garba, President of the General Assembly *(second from left)*, meets with Nelson Mandela.

Talks continue on Afghan settlement

Talks aimed at facilitating the early realization of a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan, in accordance with the 14 April 1988 Geneva Accords, are continuing.

On 26 April 1990, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar met in New York with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. The next day, he conferred with Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil.

Benon Sevan, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, in April, May and June, met with Afghan President Najibullah in Kabul and with Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Afghan opposition groups in Islamabad.

He also conferred with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Velayati and other Foreign Ministry officials, and Afghan opposition groups, in Teheran.

In Rome, he had talks with former Afghan King Zahir Shah. In Geneva, Mr. Sevan held a fourth round of expert level talks with a Soviet delegation.

Before leaving for Iran in late June, he reported to the Secretary-General in New York on his various meetings. Mr. Sevan was accompanied by Giandomenico Picco, Assistant to the Secretary-General for Special Assignments.

UN Photo 154488/J. Isaac

Boy of Kabul.

International consensus

On 19 April, a UN official noted that it was unfair to ask the Afghan nation to express its self-determination when there was no consensus yet among the guarantors of the Geneva agreements and the countries neighbouring Afghanistan on how to remove foreign obstacles which still existed on the way of the Afghan self-determination.

Efforts also had to be pursued to structure the Afghan opposition, he stated. However, ideas that had been suggested so far to structure the opposition had not worked.

The official stressed that foreign countries which were actors in the Afghan theatre should realize that they could not individually suggest and/or impose a particular outcome.

The Secretary-General, he observed, would continue his active diplomacy in bringing together the pieces of that international consensus among neighbouring countries and the two major Powers. At the same time, the UN was trying to provide humanitarian assistance to all Afghans irrespective of their political position.

On 25 April, Afghan Foreign Minister Wakil told the press that he hoped the UN would take effective steps to ensure peace in Afghanistan and implement the Geneva Accords, which he said had been "blatantly violated by Pakistan". A full international understanding on a unified mechanism of such a settlement deserved special attention, he said.

On 26 April, Pakistani Foreign Minister Khan told the press that he had informed the Secretary-General of his country's efforts to promote a peaceful settlement and had briefed him on the proposal for elections to be under the auspices of the UN or the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

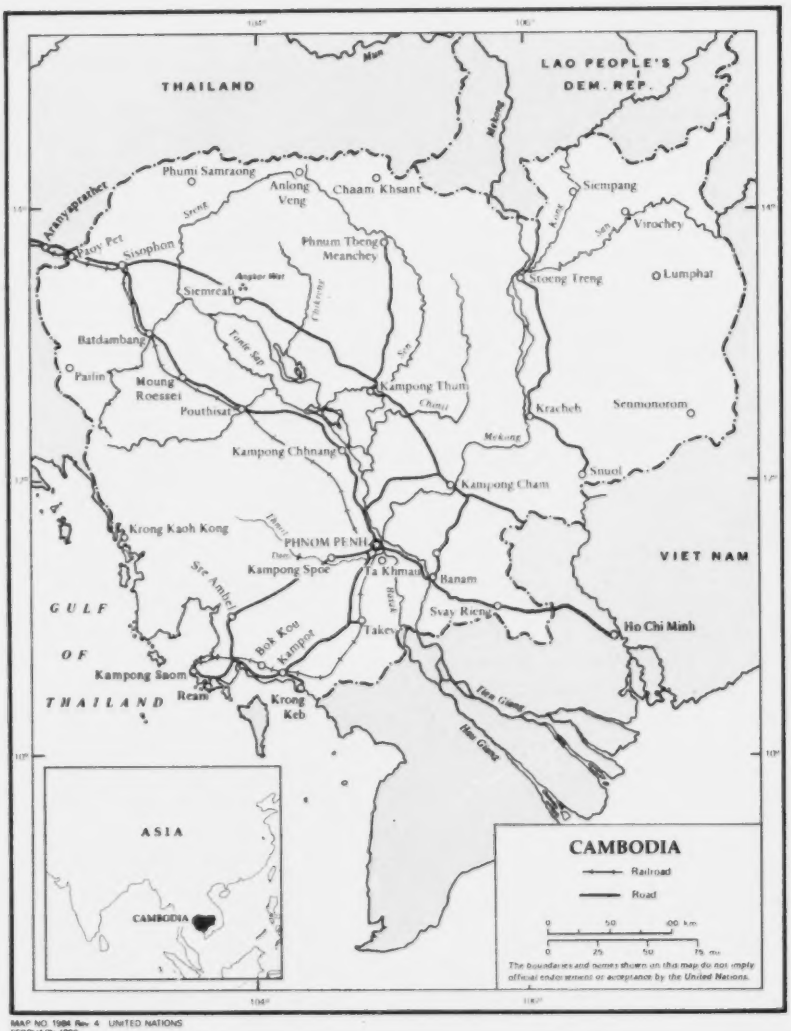
'Big Five' review progress towards political settlement of Cambodian problem

The "Big Five"—permanent members of the Security Council—in May reviewed their efforts to bring about a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem.

After meeting in New York on 25 and 26 May, China, France, the United Kingdom, the USSR and the United States jointly stated that only a comprehensive political settlement would bring lasting peace and stability to Cambodia. The May meeting was the fourth in a series of discussions on Cambodia. The three earlier meetings on the future of the South-East Asian nation, known in recent years as "Kampuchea", were held on 15 to 16 January and 12 to 13 March in Paris, and on 11 to 12 February in New York.

The Five noted recent positive steps towards peace in Cambodia and welcomed the prospect of a meeting in Tokyo in early June to bring together representatives of Cambodian parties. They hoped that the dialogue would be transformed into a continuous process, in particular through the agreement to create a supreme national council.

Earlier, the Five had outlined modalities of a settlement involving an enhanced UN role, including the creation of a United Nations transitional authority in Cambodia, which would be responsible for organizing free and fair elections. During the period leading to elections, a supreme national council, agreed on by the four Cambodian parties, would be established as a unique legitimate



body in which "national sovereignty and unity should be enshrined".

[The Cambodian parties are: the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Co-operative Cambodia (FUNCINPEC), headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk; the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), led by Son Sann; the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK), led by Khieu Samphan; and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, led by Heng Samrin.]

The Five also wanted an early reconvening of the International Conference on Peace in Cambodia, which was held in Paris from 30 July to 30 August 1989.

UN Photo 175791/M. Grant

On 19 April, the Permanent Representative of Australia, Dr. Peter Stephen Wilenski, presented the UN with 1 million Australian dollars to establish the UN Trust Fund for the Cambodian Peace Process. He suggested that the Fund be used for fact-finding missions, contingency planning and other activities aimed at advancing the Cambodian peace process. A UN spokesman said that after the Secretary-General had formally established the Trust Fund, it was expected that he would launch an appeal for other countries to contribute to it.

Alternative transitional arrangements

The Five said they had discussed alternative transitional arrangements involving varying degrees of exercise of authority by a supreme national council, which could include "representatives of all shades of opinion in Cambodia". They also considered the implications of those alternatives for the necessary role to be played by the UN.

A comprehensive political settlement, they stated, must ensure the verification of withdrawal of all foreign forces and cessation of external military assistance, a durable cease-fire and regrouping of armed forces of the various factions into designated cantonment areas, all under the control of an effective UN peace-keeping operation.

It must also ensure free and fair elections for a constituent assembly under UN auspices and fundamental human rights and freedoms for the Cambodian people. A system of guarantees should be in place for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability, neutrality and national unity of Cambodia.

The Five said that these elements of a comprehensive political settlement would be detailed in working papers which would serve as a basis for discussion with representatives of the Cambodian parties.

They considered co-operation among the Cambodian parties essential to a successful transition and wanted a meeting with the Cambodian parties in Paris before the middle of July.

The Five were briefed by UN Under-Secretary-General Rafeeuddin Ahmed on the work of UN fact-finding teams in Cambodia. They welcomed the further dispatch of such missions as necessary.

On 31 May, the Five briefed Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar on their 25-26 May meeting.

UN role discussed

During April and May, the Secretary-General discussed the Cambodian situation with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard in Paris, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London, Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens in Brussels and Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitsky in Vienna. He stressed the need for the UN to obtain clear terms of reference, assurance on security and financial means to carry out any role it might be assigned in the future.

On 12 June, General Assembly President Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria estimated that more than $1 billion would be required to support a UN-sponsored settlement.

Iran and Iraq meet face to face in Geneva

UN Photo

The 3 July Geneva meeting.

Meeting face to face for the first time since the 20 August 1988 cease-fire was agreed upon, the Foreign Ministers of Iraq and Iran have reaffirmed their support for the role of UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar in implementing Security Council resolution 598 (1987), the framework for ongoing efforts towards a final peace settlement in that area.

Ali-Akbar Velayati of Iran and Tariq Aziz of Iraq met with the Secretary-General on 3 July in Geneva—their first such encounter since the 1988 cease-fire was established.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar called the event "a psychological breakthrough". On previous occasions, the Foreign Ministers had talked to him separately. At the Geneva session, the three men conferred together and exchanged views.

"Psychologically, this is very important," he said. The meeting, he stated, sent the "right message" to the Iranian and Iraqi peoples: that both Governments were really committed to finding a peaceful solution to the problem as soon as possible.

He also believed that the meeting had "contributed to improving the atmosphere between the two countries". Both men had assured him of their continued co-operation in his efforts to implement resolution 598. A visit to the area was being considered by the Secretary-General, it was reported.

Resolution 598, adopted unanimously on 20 July 1987, calls for a cease-fire, an end to all military actions on land, at sea and in the air, withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized boundaries, dispatch of a team of UN observers to supervise those actions, and release and repatriation of prisoners of war.

Jan Eliasson, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative on issues pertaining to the implementation of resolution 598, and Giandomenico Picco, Assistant to the Secretary-General for Special Assignments, were at the 3 July meeting, as were other top Iranian and Iraqi officials.

Other developments

During a 14 May meeting in Rome, Foreign Minister Aziz informed the Secretary-General of a recent exchange of letters between Iraq and Iran, stressing that the intent was not to proceed outside the UN framework or resolution 598. Rather, he said it should be seen as a "complementary process" to talks under UN auspices.

On 11 June, Oman informed the Secretary-General of a meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council in support of the Secretary-General's endeavours to implement resolution 598.

Contacts continue

Cyprus Force mandate extended through 15 December 1990

The Security Council on 15 June extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for six months until 15 December 1990. In unanimously adopting resolution 657 (1990), the Council also asked that Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar continue his mission of good offices and that all parties concerned continue to co-operate with the Force on the basis of its present mandate.

On behalf of the Council members, Council President Pierre-Louis Blanc of France stated that it was regrettable that, in the more than 25 years since UNFICYP's establishment, it had not been possible to achieve a negotiated settlement for all aspects of the Cyprus problem.

The Secretary-General on 31 May reported *(S/21340)* that UNFICYP's continued presence in the island remained "indispensable" to achieve the Council's objectives. The Force was created in 1964 to help prevent a recurrence of fighting and restore normal conditions to the island. With a total strength of 2,131 troops, it supervises cease-fire lines and performs humanitarian tasks. UNFICYP is under the command of Major General Clive Milner.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar recalled that the Council, in its resolution 649 (1990) of 12 March 1990, had asked him to inform it of progress made in resuming the "intensive talks" among himself and the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, and in developing an agreed outline of an overall agreement as agreed in June 1989. Since then, the Secretary-General said he had pursued his efforts.

Consultations with two sides

In May, Gustave Feissel, Director for Special Political Affairs in the Offices of the Secretary-General, was in Cyprus on behalf of the Secretary-General to hold consultations with the two sides. The Secretary-General was to report to the Council as soon as those contacts had concluded.

Early in the year, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar reported that tension had risen in the island following incidents involving the imprisonment on the Turkish Cypriot side of five Greek Cypriot youths who had crossed cease-fire lines.

The Secretary-General on 11 June met in New York with Constantine Mitsotakis, Greece's new Prime Minister, to discuss the latest developments concerning Cyprus. On 9 April, he met in London with the wife of Cypriot President George Vassiliou, who discussed the detainment of the Greek Cypriot youths by the Turkish Cypriot side.

Financial crisis

In his report, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar stressed that UNFICYP faced a "chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis", imposing an inordinately heavy burden on troop-contributing countries—Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and United Kingdom.

The accumulated deficit in the UNFICYP Special Account was expected to be over $179 million for the period ending 15 June 1990. In joint letters of 7 and 14 May 1990, troop-contributing Governments expressed grave concern over the growing deficit and favoured provision of funding through assessed contributions by all Member States, a suggestion which the Secretary-General had also made some time ago. On 31 May, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar appealed for voluntary contributions to finance UNFICYP.

UN Photo 175947/J Isaac

The Secretary-General with President Vassiliou *(centre)* and Rauf Denktash *(right)*.

Draft on occupied territories vetoed in Security Council

Meeting held for first time in Geneva

UN Photo

The Council met in Geneva *(above)* on 25-26 May. It voted in New York on 31 May.

A draft resolution by which the Security Council would have sent a three-member commission to the occupied Palestinian territories to examine the "situation relating to the policies and practices of Israel" was vetoed on 31 May by the United States. The other 14 members of the Council voted in favour.

The draft was sponsored by Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Yemen and Zaire. Explaining its negative vote, the United States said it continued to prefer sending a special envoy of the Secretary-General to look at the situation.

By the draft resolution, the Council would have also reaffirmed that the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War was applicable to the "Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem".

UN Photo

Ambassador Pickering votes "no".

It would have asked the commission to submit to the Council by 20 June 1990 its recommendations on how to ensure the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation. It would have also decided to keep the situation in the occupied territories under constant and close scrutiny and to reconvene to review the situation in the light of the findings of the commission.

The Council meeting took place against a dramatic background—a new outburst of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Also, for the first time in Council history, the locale of its meeting was shifted to Geneva so that Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat could address the body. He keynoted a two-day debate held at the Palais des Nations on 25 and 26 May. The Council vote on 31 May took place in New York.

United States view

Thomas Pickering, representing the United States, said the draft might be misused to generate needless controversy and dispute in the area. His Government remained committed to working with the parties in the region for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It would support practical steps that "respond to the spiral of troubling events", but those steps must not hinder the peace process. He continued to support the sending of a special envoy of the Secretary-General to report on the situation. All parties should exhibit the necessary flexibility to permit such a mission to take place.

Zuhdi Labib Terzi, Observer for Palestine, said that a permanent member had invoked "its arbitrary powers" to prevent the Council from performing its duty in response to a truly alarming situation. The Palestinian people hoped that the Council would, in the future, try to rectify the injustice imposed upon it by a permanent member.

Johanan Bein of Israel said the PLO, buoyed by the spiralling violence, was now demanding international protection for Palestinians. "Protection from whom? And who exactly is to do the protecting? Those conducting the reign of terror? Or those condoning it and, in effect, providing it with legitimacy?"

The deteriorating situation cited in the draft had been caused by the PLO, which devoted all its efforts to inciting violence, fomenting trouble in the region and perpetrating acts of terrorism and mass murder. He rejected in totality the idea of appointing a commission to examine the situation in the territories and if such a commission was to be appointed, it would not be accepted by Israel.

UN Photo

PLO Chairman Arafat during debate.

UN Photo

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu.

Background

The series of Council meetings in May was convened at the request of Bahrain, on behalf of the Arab Group, to consider what was termed "the crime of collective murder committed by Israel against the Palestinian people".

The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in a letter to the Secretary-General *(A/44/947-S/21303)*, referred to media reports that on 20 May, a former Israeli soldier, in military uniform and armed with a machine-gun, shot to death seven Palestinians and wounded 11 others in the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Le-Zion. Defying a curfew imposed by the Israeli army, Palestinians had taken to the streets in great numbers throughout the occupied territory to protest against the massacre. In ensuing confrontations, Israeli troops had shot and killed seven more Palestinians and wounded at least 650 more.

On 22 May, the Security Council President was asked by the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the UN to invite PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to participate in the Council debate. Simultaneously, the PLO requested an entry visa to the United States for Mr. Arafat. However, before the United States took any decision on that request, the Security Council after day-long consultations on 22 May, decided to hold its first meeting on the matter in Geneva on 25 May.

Immigration to area considered

The Security Council on 3 May resumed consideration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories, focusing on reports that recent immigrants to Israel from the Soviet Union were being settled in those territories. Five previous meetings on the issue were held between 15 and 29 March. (For more details, see *UN Chronicle*, 1990, No. 2).

After statements by the USSR and the Observer for Palestine, the meeting adjourned without a resolution having been tabled.

Debate

Forty-one speakers participated in the debate during Council meetings held on the subject.

PLO Chairman Arafat on 25 May said the request for the present meeting stemmed from the realization that the situation had reached an "extremely dangerous and explosive point" and required urgent international action. The Palestinian people expected the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility to protect the lives of Palestinians and end the occupation.

Mr. Arafat proposed the designation of a permanent envoy by the Secretary-General to work full-time on the peace process; the adoption of a Council resolution providing international protection to the Palestinian people under the UN flag and by means of international forces; and adoption of another resolution to stop settler immigration to the occupied territories that would halt completely the construction of Israeli settlements in those lands, particularly in Arab Jerusalem.

Council permanent members should immediately meet to discuss the peace settlement and prepare for the convening of an interna-

tional peace conference. The Council should also arrange for sanctions against Israel and establish an international committee to investigate "crimes perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people", he said.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel, said the Council had been convened not to advance peace and security, but to retard it. After two bus attacks in which 18 people died and 42 were wounded, the PLO had hailed the killers as heroes and promised more "such heroic actions".

Israel's reaction to the actions of a "solitary mad individual" had been one of shock, revulsion, grief and sympathy. The criminal had been apprehended immediately and would be brought to justice. The Council meeting was an attempt to violate international law and encroach on Israel's right and responsibility to govern the territories.

Middle East Briefs

Golan Heights mandate extended

The Security Council on 31 May decided unanimously to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for a further six-month period until 30 November 1990. The Force, established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire between Israel and Syria in the Golan Heights area, currently numbers 1,331 and draws troops from Austria, Canada, Finland and Poland. It is commanded by Major-General Adolf Radauer, a national of Austria.

In adopting resolution 655 (1990), the Council also called on the parties to immediately implement resolution 338 (1973), which specifies a cease-fire following the 1973 hostilities and the implementation of Security Council resolution 242 (1967), which sets out principles for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Secretary-General reported *(S/21305)* that UNDOF had continued to perform its functions effectively, with the co-operation of the parties. During the period 22 November 1989 to 21 May 1990, the situation in the Israel-Syria sector had remained quiet and there had been no serious incidents, he stated.

Symposiums on Palestine call for action

Two major meetings on the question of Palestine were held in New York—the North American regional seminar for NGOs (25-26 June) and the Seventh North American regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine (27-29 June). The theme of the seminar was "Peace and justice for the Palestinian people—an imperative for the 1990s".

A call for sanctions against Israel and suspension or curtailing of United States economic and military assistance to that country were among recommendations and conclusions adopted by the symposium. In a final declaration and plan of action, adopted by consensus, participants also called on the Canadian Government to impose economic and other sanctions against Israel for actions in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Special Committee reviews human rights in occupied territories

The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories on 4 June concluded a two-week mission to Damascus, Amman and Cairo, during which it reviewed the latest developments relating to the human rights situation in the territories occupied by Israel.

It heard some 50 witnesses who spoke on the situation in the Golan Heights, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Many reported on incidents resulting in casualties among civilians, treatment of Palestinians during detention, denial of the right to a fair trial and closing of universities, schools and kindergartens.

Preparations under way for Amendment Conference for Partial Test-Ban Treaty

The States parties to the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear-Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water—also known as the Partial Test-Ban Treaty—concluded a nine-day Meeting at United Nations Headquarters on 8 June 1990, approving measures to facilitate a Treaty Amendment Conference scheduled to be held in New York from 7 to 18 January 1991.

In a decision adopted by consensus, the Meeting invited the views of the States parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, regarding the verification of a comprehensive nuclear-test ban. The representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States said the adoption of the text was not a commitment on their part to do so. The representative of the Soviet Union said his Government would comply with the decision.

The Meeting also adopted a final report on organizational aspects of the Amendment Conference covering the structure and work of the meeting of the States parties, summary records, record of decisions, list of other documents and the estimated costs of the Meeting and the Amendment Conference.

The President of the Meeting, Edmond Jayasinghe of Sri Lanka, said the signing of agreements by the United States and the Soviet Union "augured well" for the work of the Conference.

In an opening statement, Mr. Jayasinghe stated that a comprehensive nuclear-test ban is a step which must be taken in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and further nuclear proliferation, as well as to bring about an eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons.

The Conference, if successful, would convert the present treaty into a comprehensive nuclear-test ban which would cover underground nuclear weapons tests.

The 1963 Treaty, which did not cover such underground tests, was signed on 5 August 1963 by the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States. It entered into force on 10 October 1963 and has now been acceded to by 118 States parties.

Article II of the Treaty stipulates that the three depository countries must convene a conference to discuss an amendment if at least one third of the States parties request it. Any amendment must be approved by a majority of all the Parties, including the three depositaries.

Six countries—Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Yugoslavia—proposed the convening of the Treaty Amendment Conference. Preparatory meetings for the Conference began in January 1990.

UN Photo

President Jayasinghe *(centre)* with Under-Secretary-General Yasushi Akashi *(left)* and Conference Secretary-General Sohrab Kheradi *(right).*

Disarmament Commission recommends Declaration for Third Disarmament Decade

Agrees on guidelines for conventional disarmament

The Disarmament Commission at its three-week session (7-29 May, New York), recommended adoption of a draft Declaration for the Third Disarmament Decade—the 1990s—and urged an end to any military and nuclear aid to South Africa which would enhance its nuclear capability. The Commission also adopted by consensus a set of observations and recommendations on conventional disarmament.

Those were among the substantive issues the Commission dealt with through subsidiary bodies. The others were: aspects of the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament; role of the United Nations in disarmament; naval armaments and disarmament; and objective information on military matters (a new item).

The Commission successfully concluded all outstanding issues at its current session except the new item. It also adopted concrete recommendations by consensus on most of the other items.

1990s—Third Disarmament Decade

The Commission finalized the draft text of the "Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade", for consideration by the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The text stresses, among other things, the important role that the general public, informed about the issues of disarmament, could play in promoting a constructive and realistic dialogue on disarmament issues.

Also, to help increase global consciousness of the issues, the Commission stated that the World Disarmament Campaign and Disarmament Week would continue to play a useful role in achieving the goals of the Decade.

Nuclear-arms race

On the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament, the Commission stated that disarmament is the responsibility of all States. However, "the nuclear-weapon States have the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament and, together with other military significant States, for halting and reversing the arms race", the Commission stated.

The Commission also urged the co-operation of all States to reach the goal of nuclear non-proliferation by preventing the emergence of any additional nuclear-weapon States and progressively reducing and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons altogether.

Naval armaments and disarmament

The Disarmament Commission, the specialized deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery, also concluded that positive developments were achieved in naval disarmament. It stated that seaborne strategic nuclear weapons had been the subject of negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union, with both countries deciding to phase out some categories of seaborne nuclear weapons.

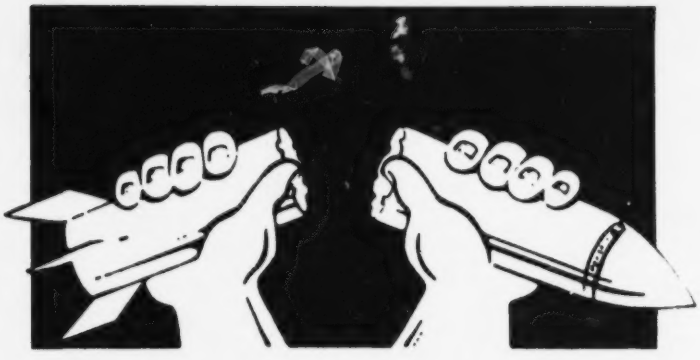
It suggested that consultations on this subject among interested States could pave the way to sea and naval disarmament negotiations by building confidence among those States.

UN in the field of disarmament

The Commission concluded the item on the role of the UN in disarmament and adopted a consensus text after six years of deliberation. It urged increasing the capability of the UN to deal with disarmament issues and pointed out that "in the exercise of his role, the Secretary-General should be assisted by an adequately staffed and funded Department for Disarmament Affairs. The resources accorded to the Department should be commensurate with the requirements of its mandated tasks in so far as budgetary restraints of the United Nations permit."

The Disarmament Commission, chaired by Nana S. Sutresna of Indonesia, noted the progress made by States members of two major military alliances towards an early agreement on substantial reduction of their conventional armed forces.

Conference on Disarmament continues work on chemical weapons accord



The Conference on Disarmament, as it opened the second part of its 1990 session in Geneva on 12 June, continued consideration of a draft convention prohibiting chemical weapons, a nuclear-test ban and a comprehensive programme of disarmament.

Other topics on its agenda related to: conventional weapons; reduction of military budgets; reduction of armed forces; disarmament and development; and disarmament and international security, as well as collateral and confidence-building measures, and effective verification methods in relation to appropriate disarmament measures, acceptable to all parties concerned.

In opening remarks to the Conference, the President for June, Oswaldo de Rivero of Peru, said that the negotiations on banning chemical weapons had made the most progress in the Conference on Disarmament.

He urged speedy agreement on a unified and comprehensive text for the total and definitive destruction of chemical weapons. That included, he said, total destruction of the remaining stocks within the transitional period agreed upon in the convention.

M. Lyall Breckon of the United States informed the Conference about the bilateral agreement signed on 1 June by Presidents George Bush of the United States and Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR. It calls for the destruction of the vast bulk of declared chemical weapons stockpiles to begin by the end of 1992, with on-site inspections to confirm the process and destruction of at least 50 per cent of declared stocks by the end of 1999. It also cites their intent not to produce chemical weapons when the agreement enters into force, without waiting for the entry into force of a global chemical-weapons ban.

The Soviet-United States bilateral agreement was designed to provide new impetus to the conclusion of a comprehensive verifiable global chemical weapons ban at the earliest possible date, he stated.

The Conference also heard reports on recent research experiments to improve verification of alleged use of chemical weapons. Oscar Vaerno of Norway presented two working papers, one explaining ongoing efforts to identify a general procedure to screen samples suspected of being contaminated with chemical warfare agents; and the other, addressing many outstanding problems in the use of regional seismic arrays in a test-ban monitoring context.

Marjatta Rautio of Finland, Director of the Finnish Research Project on the Verification of Chemical Disarmament, introduced the 1990 Blue Book that described the results of laboratory comparison tests involving Canada, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The exercise tested existing procedures for sample preparation and analysis, and determined whether standard operating procedures would be required for the future convention.

Serguei B. Batsanov of the Soviet Union addressed the issue of improving the effectiveness of the Conference's work. He said the Conference should be given added expertise to enable it to identify problems related to disarmament and search for their solution. He also proposed measures to improve its effectiveness, such as more time-efficient schedules, the creation of additional consultations and new procedures for establishing Conference working bodies.

The first part of the 1990 session had concluded on 24 April with the President for April, Ahmad Kamal of Pakistan, reporting on the progress made at the session.

Paul Joachim Von Stulpnagel of the Federal Republic of Germany said that the necessary political and material prerequisites existed for the drafting of a comprehensive and global convention effectively banning chemical weapons. An early conclusion of the convention was necessary, he said, to demonstrate that multilateral disarmament could keep abreast with other international developments in the field.

The Conference on Disarmament is the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community.

UN Space Committee

Agreement reached on guidelines for nuclear power sources

During its 1990 session (4-14 June, New York), the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space welcomed the consensus of the Legal Sub-Committee on guidelines and criteria for the safe use of nuclear power sources. It also urged broader participation in the International Space Year and co-operation in remote sensing.

In its report *(A/45/20)*, the Committee noted that its Legal Sub-Committee's Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources had reached consensus on guidelines and criteria for the safe use of nuclear power. Its draft principle called for the following measures: respect for accepted international guidelines for radiological protection; employment of sufficiently high orbits; and using only highly enriched uranium in reactors.

Vaclav Mikulka of Czechoslovakia, Chairman of the Sub-Committee, at its twenty-ninth session (2-20 April, Geneva), called the consensus a "major achievement".

The 53-member UN Outer Space Committee also dealt with the following:

• **The 1992 International Space Year (ISY).** The Committee agreed that the ISY would provide an opportunity to strengthen and expand international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and urged all countries to participate in ISY activities.

• **Remote sensing.** All countries were asked to continue their practice of free distribution of meteorological information. The Committee noted the importance of co-operation in remote sensing activities, carried out through regular meetings of satellite and ground station operators, as well as the users. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee said that remote sensing from outer space should be carried out to meet the needs of developing countries.

• **Spin-off benefits.** The Committee agreed that the spin-off benefits of outer space technologies were considerable and asked for a report on that issue. Benefits include: *in medicine:* new techniques for diagnosis and treatment, including an electronic "temperature pill", a portable X-ray device and surgical instruments; *in the safety field:* anti-glare filters, heat-resistant materials and protective systems for fire-fighters; *in manufacturing:* dry lubricants, high-performance machines, protective coatings, optical instruments and electronics.

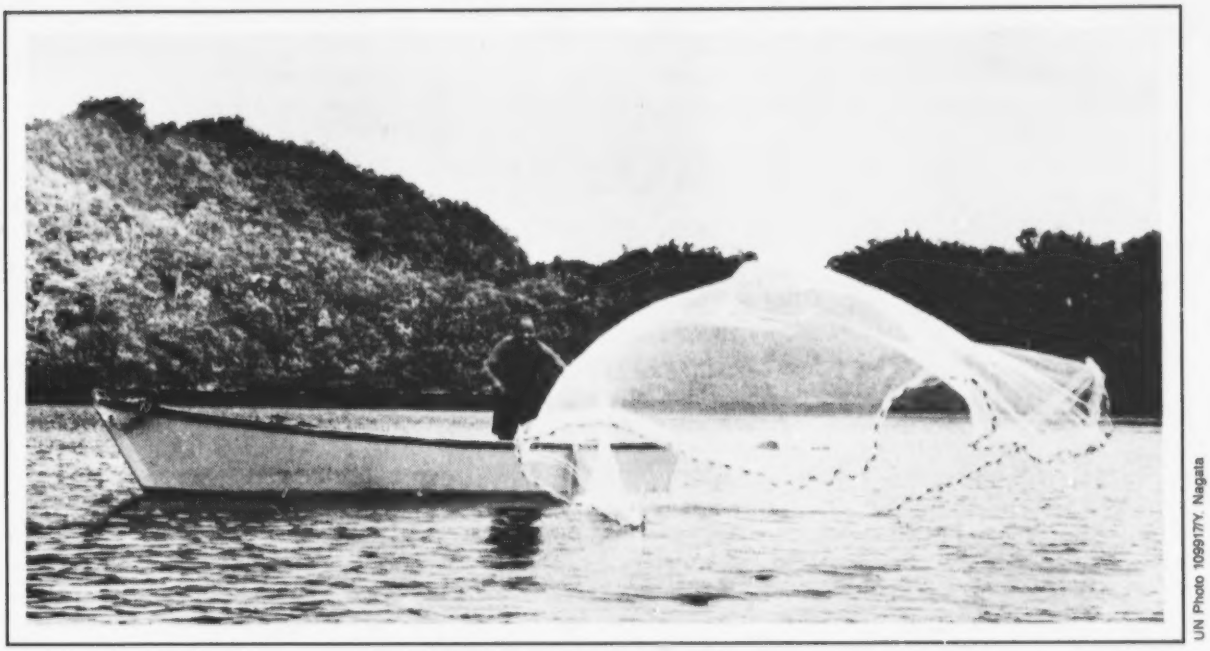
• **Space debris.** National research on space debris should continue, the Committee stated. It also reiterated the General Assembly's recommendation that more attention should be paid to questions of outer space environment and space debris.

Committee Chairman Peter Jankowitsch of Austria said that space debris constituted an unacceptable risk to man and materials in space and on the ground. He added that future proliferation of debris could be minimized by taking preventative measures at the planning stage.

The Committee recommended that its thirty-fourth session be convened at Graz, Austria, from 27 May to 7 June 1991. The 1991 theme for the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee would be: "Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral and ground-water resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries."

Artwork by Jean-Felix Lyon

Trusteeship Council considers developments regarding Palau



UN Photo 109917/Y Nagata

Casting for the future in Palau.

The Trusteeship Council on 1 June noted with satisfaction assurances given by the United States as Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia) that it would continue to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement, and welcomed its assurance that it was prepared to assist the people of Palau, at their request, in determining their political status. Palau is one of the Trust Territory's four entities.

The Council, at the end of its fifty-seventh session (21 May-1 June, New York), noted Palau's concern regarding economic development and self-sufficiency and shared the view that continued efforts were needed in that regard.

The five-member Council took those actions by approving, by a vote of 4 (China, France, United Kingdom, United States) to none, with 1 abstention (USSR), conclusions and recommendations proposed by its Drafting Committee to be reported to the Security Council.

By its texts, the Trusteeship Council noted that, in the February 1990 plebiscite in Palau, the Compact of Free Association with the United States did not obtain the 75 per cent majority necessary for ratification and that the Government of Palau was currently reviewing options to resolve its political status.

The Council also noted that the peoples of the Trust Territory had elected to assume full responsibility for administration in the economic, social and educational fields. It considered that any difficulties over the interpretation of the new status agreements should be resolved bilaterally by the parties concerned, in accordance with the procedures mutually agreed and laid down in the relevant new status agreements. It welcomed recent improvements in the tourism and fishery industries as well as steps taken by the Administering Authority to assist Palau in fisheries enforcement, anti-drug trafficking and abuse campaigns, public health and safety and the operation and maintenance of public works facilities.

In other action, the Council noted the report of its Visiting Mission which observed the February plebiscite in Palau. It also examined the report of the Administering Authority, the United States.

In a closing statement, Council President Anne Secret-Gazeau of France called its deliberations "very constructive", adding that it should take advantage of "the new atmosphere and move towards even more harmonious views".

The last vote

In the February 1990 plebiscite, of a total of 7,621 valid votes cast, 4,633 or 60.8 per cent were in favour of the Compact; 2,988 or 39.2 per cent were against it.

The Visiting Mission reported that the results of the 1990 plebiscite had reflected the freely expressed wishes of the people of Palau and that the people had an adequate understanding of the underlying issues and the implications of the Compact on their future. There was no evidence of political tension or attempts at coercion or intimidation.

The Mission noted, however, that the debate over the Compact had become to some extent interwoven with domestic political rivalries and ambitions in Palau, and that many voters had expressed disaffection with the electoral process.

A final determination

The Administering Authority reported that it was prepared to assist the Government of Palau in any appropriate endeavour leading to the final determination of a political status by the people.

During the Council session, petitioners expressed concern over the continued commitment of the United States to its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement, the militarization of Palau and economic self-sufficiency. Some stated that the Compact had not been approved because it would permit the United States to deploy nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in Palauan territory. Requests were made for Palau to be able to receive grants and loans from other nations and international institutions.

Speakers on the issue of the Northern Mariana Islands expressed a loss of confidence in the Administering Authority's intention to comply with the provisions of the 1975 Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States. Some said the United States had reneged on its commitment to guarantee the people of the Northern Marianas sovereignty over their internal affairs. At its fifty-seventh session, the Council noted that any difficulties over the interpretation of the new status agreements should be resolved bilaterally, in accordance with the procedures mutually agreed upon.

The Council also discussed the dissemination of information on the UN and the Trusteeship System in the Trust Territory. Other issues discussed concerned offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of the Trust Territories.

Background

The Trust Territory, also known as Micronesia, is the last of the original 11 Trust Territories under the International Trusteeship System and was designated as a "strategic area" under the Charter. Because of that status, the Trusteeship Council reports to the Security Council about conditions in the Trust Territory.

The Trusteeship Council is composed of China, France, the United Kingdom, the USSR and the United States. China participated in the work of the Council for the first time in 1989.

Micronesia consists of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands and Palau—previously four administrative entities. In 1983, Compacts of Free Association with the United States were approved for the Federated States of Micronesia and for the Marshall Islands. The Northern Marianas opted for Commonwealth status in 1975.

Victorio Uherbelau, Director of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs of Palau, said Palau's deep concern over the inadequacies of infrastructure projects, which were basic for its present and future economic well-being and self-sufficiency, was a real one. Regarding the Administering Authority's intention to enhance its physical presence in Palau, he requested that the advisers and experts not take over vital functions of the Government, which had been carried out by Palauans themselves.

The Administering Authority had encouraged Palau to assume certain governmental functions in foreign affairs and international relations, he went on. Palauan voters had not rejected the Compact of Free Association with the United States as a political status option. A majority favoured continuation of a close relationship with the United States. The objective of Palau's leadership was "to find a way to reach out to its people" and to lead them to an "internally self-governing nation freely associated with its former trustee and generous mentor, the United States".

Stella Guerra, Assistant Secretary, Office of Territorial and International Affairs of the Department of the Interior of the United States, said that the political future of Palau was up to the Palauans. She endorsed observations by the United Kingdom and France that the people of Palau were very developed politically. The United States believed Palau was ready for complete self-government. In the meantime, it was opening an expanded office in Honolulu to provide support facilities for an upgraded presence of the Administering Authority in Palau. A resident representative would provide direction to the local government.

Equality for women highlighted at Economic and Social Council

Ninety-nine texts adopted on a wide spectrum of issues

A wide range of texts aimed at promoting women's rights throughout the world was adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1990, held from 1 to 25 May in New York.

Prominent among them was a set of recommendations and conclusions resulting from a recent UN evaluation, five years after the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women at the World Conference held in Kenya in 1985. Its general conclusion: progress in achieving equality for women had either slowed down or stopped *(E/CN.6/1990/5)*.

Declaring that "immediate steps should be taken to remove the most serious obstacles" to the Strategies and that the pace of its implementation should be improved in the crucial last decade of the twentieth century, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1990/15 setting out recommendations and conclusions.

Governments should launch before 1994 women's "legal literacy" campaigns using the mass media to inform both women and men of women's rights under international conventions and national law, the Council urged.

They should also promote the training of teachers on gender issues, eliminate sex-bias in textbooks and take steps to reduce the stereotyping of women in the mass media. The Council advised Governments to work with women's organizations on all these issues.

In another action, the Council asked the Secretary-General to launch a world-wide UN educational campaign to increase awareness of obstacles to women's *de facto* equality in political participation and decision-making. It recommended that a fourth world conference on women be held in 1995. Others were held in Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980 and Nairobi in 1985.

Member States were asked to submit to the Secretary-General a report on legislation or other measures taken to prevent physical violence against detained women. The UN Special Plan on Economic Co-operation for Central America, the Council stated, should be reinforced with concrete activities in favour of women.

UN Photo 165446

Forward-looking Strategies for women were adopted in Nairobi in 1985.

Other resolutions adopted on women dealt with political equality, assistance to women and children in Namibia and under *apartheid*, Palestinian women, integration of women in the new international development strategy and elimination of discrimination against women.

Ninety-nine texts—48 resolutions and 51 decisions—were adopted at the session, which also focused on human rights, racism, drugs, crime, and various social development issues.

Many measures adopted had been recommended earlier this year by Council subsidiary bodies, including the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and Committees on both Crime Prevention and Control and Narcotic Drugs. Some will require final approval by the General Assembly.

Alexandria and Chernobyl

The restoration of the ancient Library of Alexandria in Egypt and the consequences of the 1986 nuclear power plant accident at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union were both discussed for the first time by the Council.

The international community was asked to continue supporting efforts by the Egyptian Government to revive the historic ancient library. Consideration was deferred of a draft on Chernobyl proposed by the Soviet Union, Byelorrusian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR, asking the UN to propose elements of an international co-operation programme for affected areas and send a mission to evaluate priority needs.

Also, in the context of attaining the objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1983-1993), the Council welcomed the emerging political climate inside South Africa and called on Governments to encourage positive change in that country. Governments were asked to maintain "existing measures against South Africa until there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible change". Resolution 1990/49 was adopted on 25 May by 42 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.

Membership in the Geneva-based Commission on Human Rights was increased from 43 to 53, with the 10 additional seats going to African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean States.

Human rights: Vigilance must go on

Vigilance must be maintained with regard to human rights violations, even with lowered international tension and "a dramatic reduction in sterile ideological confrontation", stated Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, at the Council's opening meeting. Those conditions must not lead the international community to forget that failure to ensure respect for human rights could once more ignite renewed discord and conflict, he added.

Economic and social development went hand in hand with respect for human rights, he continued. Calls had been heard for the integration of human rights concepts into development projects. That way, the projects would further respect for human rights and such respect would make these projects more effective.

Stagnation and reversal in the economy in the 1980s in many developing countries, particularly in Africa and Latin America, had set back social progress, said Rafeeuddin Ahmed, Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs. That had been the foremost conclusion of the *1989 Report on the World Social Situation.*

The Council considered a four-chapter supplement *(A/45/137)* to the Report, which set in a global context conclusions on specific social problems such as population and family, inequality and poverty, environmental threats and drugs.

Elections were held for 17 UN bodies, including the Commissions on Social Development, the Status of Women, Human Settlements and Transnational Corporations.

TASS-SOVFOTO

The Chernobyl plant—after the 1986 disaster.

Council action

The Council took action on a wide range of issues, including the following:

Crime:

▶ Prison education to be promoted everywhere. Aim is to develop "the whole person" and contribute to crime prevention, prisoner resocialization and less recidivism.

▶ UN to promote access to justice and redress for victims of crime and abuse of power. Will also act "to prevent and curtail severe victimization where national means of recourse are insufficient" and help to give material, medical and psycho-social assistance to victims and their families.

▶ UN criminal justice surveys to be carried out at two-year and ultimately one-year intervals.

Drugs:

▶ Meetings of European heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, to be convened by UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Similar meetings already organized for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific.

▶ Model programmes and manual for drug abuse prevention among children and adolescents in the Near and Middle East, to be designed by UN Division of Narcotic Drugs.

Human rights:

▶ Studies on right to freedom of opinion and expression, right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights and on discrimination against people infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or people with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), to be carried out by Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, an organ of the Commission on Human Rights.

▶ Adoption and publication of guidelines on use of computerized personal files, recently revised by Commission on Human Rights, recommended to General Assembly.

▶ Work to continue within Commission on Human Rights on the following texts: draft body of principles and guarantees for protection of mentally-ill persons and improvement of mental health; draft declaration on right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms; and draft declaration on rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

▶ Technical conference on practical experience in the realization of sustainable and environmentally sound self-development by indigenous peoples, to be organized by UN in 1991.

▶ Secretary-General to report to Council in 1991 on steps taken by Member States, UN system and other intergovernmental organizations to suppress traffic in persons and exploitation of prostitution of others.

Disabled:

▶ Standard rules on equalization of opportunities for disabled children, youth and adults to be developed by Commission for Social Development for adoption by General Assembly in 1993.

UN Photo 175923/M. Grant

The Council dealt with many social matters at its first session in 1990.

Special Section

Future of the global economy: Challenges of the 90s

"Time to be bold"

UN Photo 175718/J. Isaac

President Garba *(centre)* presided over the seven-day special session.

An international consensus on the present and future course of the world economy was reached on 1 May 1990 when the General Assembly adopted an unusually blunt and direct Declaration that is expected to guide economic policies in both developed and developing countries through the end of the century and beyond.

The wide-ranging, 38-point Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries was hailed as "a watershed in the history of international economic co-operation" by Assembly President Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria, who said it took 10 years to achieve.

The Declaration states that the most important challenge for the 1990s is the revitalization of economic growth and social development in the developing countries, "which calls for sustained growth of the world economy and favourable external conditions". It also states that "this major challenge has to be addressed in the context of increasing interdependence and integration in the world economy".

The document assesses the 1980s, outlines what it considers to be the challenges and opportunities for the 1990s and sets out specific commitments and policies for all Governments—developed and developing alike—in the areas of debt, development aid, environment, open trading system, stable commodity markets and a large role for the UN in helping revitalize development.

The Declaration (resolution 44/214) was adopted without a vote at the end of the eighteenth special session on international economic co-operation. The session opened on 23 April with the admission of the Republic of Namibia to the UN as the 160th Member State.

The President of Cyprus, the Prime Minister of Peru, three Deputy Prime Ministers and 39 Foreign Ministers were among the 136 speakers addressing the special session.

In an opening speech on 23 April, Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar said that the time had come "to be bold" and asked for "an agreed-upon global agenda" for the 1990s. "Success", he added, "requires that we be more forward and outward looking than our cautious human and political nature normally allows".

A two-day consultation meeting for senior officials on 30 and 31 August, before the Second Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Paris, 3-14 September), was approved on 17 May at a meeting of the Assembly's resumed forty-fourth session.

All countries involved

The Declaration "spells out the obligations of all groups of countries", Assembly President Garba emphasized only a few minutes after long and arduous negotiations within the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the special session, chaired by Constantine D. Zepos of Greece, culminated in the adoption of the document by the plenary.

In describing the text, Mr. Garba said that industrialized countries are asked to help restore a favourable international economic environment, give urgent attention "to a durable and comprehensive solution to the debt problems of developing countries", provide substantial external resources and ensure an open and credible multilateral trading system.

UN Photo 175760/M. Grant

The Prime Minister of Peru, Guillermo Larco-Cox, was among the many dignitaries addressing the session.

Developing countries are urged to mobilize their human, financial and physical resources through effective national policies, he added.

All countries are urged to reduce military expenditures during the 1990s and integrate environmental concerns into their national policies. However, the Declaration states, "as the major sources of pollution, the developed countries have the main responsiblity for taking appropriate measures urgently".

The international community is asked to support the efforts of Eastern European countries to integrate themselves into the world economy, without detracting from the high priority placed on international aid to developing countries, he said.

Development with a human face

In its landmark Declaration, the Assembly stresses that every country shares responsibility for the state of the world economy and strongly backs development with a human face.

Economic policies, it states, "should have as their ultimate objective the betterment of the human condition and the enhancement of the contribution of all persons to development". The full utilization of human resources and the recognition of human rights "stimulate creativity, innovation and initiative".

Economic and social progress requires that "growth be broadly based, offering equal opportunities to all people, both women and men, to participate fully in economic, social and political activities".

Health, nutrition, housing, population policies and other social services are keys to improving individual welfare and successful development, the Assembly states. "Education and training, which must be available to all, are essential for improving the quality of human resources and for sustaining economic growth."

Major challenges everywhere for the 1990s are the eradication of

poverty and hunger, greater equity in income distribution and development of human resources, the Assembly declares.

"The international community should support efforts to arrest the current escalation of extreme poverty and hunger. It is essential to reverse the present deterioration of this grave situation", it concludes.

A global commitment

A report of the Secretary-General *(A/AC.233/5)*, issued in January for the preparatory committee of the eighteenth special session, pointed out that industrialized countries frequently failed to consider the consequences of their policies for the developing countries. For example, it said, interest rates in developed countries, which directly affect the debt burden of developing countries, are taken primarily on the basis of the domestic situation in those countries.

The Declaration sets out to correct this situation:

"The major industrialized countries influence world economic growth and the international economic environment profoundly", it acknowledges. Then it adds: "The co-ordination of macroeconomic policies should take full account of the interests and concerns of all countries, particularly the developing countries."

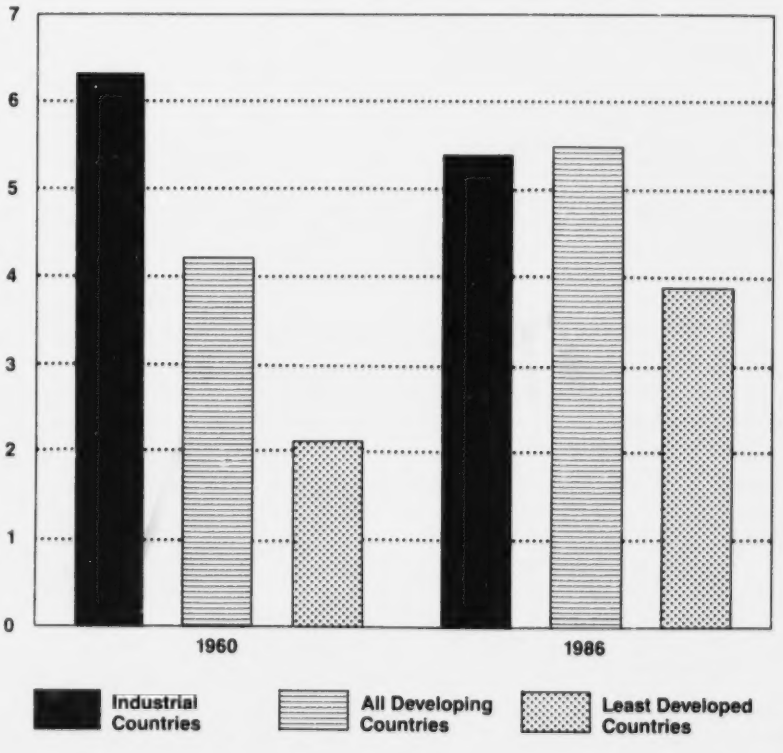
Other commitments and policies for international development cooperation are:

- Developing countries should continue to work towards keeping control over inflationary tendencies, promoting domestic savings, achieving favourable conditions for domestic and foreign investment, modernizing their economies and increasing their international competitiveness.
- Developed countries should "enhance the quantity and quality of their aid" and implement the agreed international target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance and 0.15 per cent to least developed countries (LDCs).
- Appropriate additional resources for the LDCs should be considered at the upcoming global conference on the LDCs in Paris.
- In the 1990s, multilateral financial institutions should be provided with adequate resources to support long-term development, facilitate structural reform and finance programmes to alleviate the adverse social consequences of adjustment for poor and vulnerable groups.
- "Any present or future trends towards unilateralism, bilateralism and the erosion of the multilateral trading system must be arrested. Protectionism should be resisted everywhere; commitments to standstill and roll-back of protectionism should be honoured."
- Better functioning commodity markets and more stable and predictable conditions are needed.
- Countries should seek to reduce military expenditures. The feasibility of channelling some of these reductions through financial mechanisms for development should be explored.

Large role for UN system

The Declaration affirms that the UN system "has a large role to play in international co-operation for revitalizing development in the 1990s". The specialized agencies, in particular, have "a major responsibility" in this task. They already make "an indispensable contribution" to development.

Military Expenditure (as per cent of GNP)



How the world sees the 1980s

For Constantine Zepos of Greece, the Declaration was "a balance of concepts" and its adoption was "a politically important event". Mr. Zepos chaired the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the special session, which formulated the final text.

Assembly members, he said, showed "good will, co-operation and common sense" in arriving at a solution which, if not ideal for everyone, met the interests of all, up to a certain acceptable degree.

UN Photo 175719/J. Isaac

Constantine Zepos of Greece.

Reaching a common view of the 1980s that all countries could live with was as crucial as the formulation of possible remedial action in the 1990s, it was generally felt. The following are excerpts from the Declaration which resulted from this process:

In the 1980s, progress in developed and developing countries has been uneven. The decade was marked by an increasing gap between those groups of countries, as well as by relatively slow growth and large global financial and trade imbalances.

Developed market-oriented countries have succeeded to a large extent in controlling inflation and in maintaining sustained, though modest, growth.

For many developing countries, the 1980s have been viewed as a decade lost for development.

Living conditions in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, and in parts of Asia, deteriorated, and economic and social infrastructures eroded, impairing stability and prospects for growth and development. Other developing countries were able to achieve economic and social progress.

The position of developing countries in international trade and finance weakened substantially, further widening the gap between developing and developed countries.

External indebtedness emerged as a main factor in the economic stalemate in the developing countries. Their capacity to service debt was seriously weakened as interest rates grew and terms of trade deteriorated. This problem has contributed to the fall in investment and the cessation of new financial flows. A long-term downward trend in the prices of commodities has had devastating effects on commodity-dependent developing countries.

As a result, there was a large net transfer of resources from the developing to the developed countries, depriving the former of much needed resources for development. This made the process of adjustment more difficult and complicated the tasks of coping with its social consequences and obtaining the necessary political support for reform.

Eastern European countries were not appropriately involved in the world economic system. Their need for comprehensive reform and transformation grew and, in the late 1980s, fundamental political and economic changes began to take place. These countries face problems of adapting to the scientific, technological and structural changes taking place in the world economy.

As the world changes around us, we must respond positively. The 1980s marked the beginning of fundamental rethinking towards the achievement of economic development. A gradual convergence of views on economic policy, including the need for sound macroeconomic policies and enhanced competition, is emerging. Flexibility, creativity, innovation and openness must be integral parts of our economic systems.

POVERTY

One of the most pressing issues of the 1990s is to reduce world poverty. The figures are staggering and shameful: more than 1 billion people in the developing world live in poverty. This means that at least 20 per cent of the world's population live on less that $370 a year, afflicted by disease, illiteracy and lack of opportunity.

The World Bank has dedicated its thirteenth annual global development study to an exhaustive examination of the "poorest of the world's poor", analysing programmes which have successfully eliminated poverty.

The 260-page analysis—*World Development Report 1990*—first measures poverty, qualitatively as well as quantitatively, and then draws lessons from the experience of countries which have successfully reduced poverty.

An uneven burden

The burden of poverty is spreading unevenly among countries, the Bank states. Nearly half of the world's poor live in South Asia, a region that accounts for roughly 30 per cent of the world's population. Sub-Saharan Africa has a smaller, but "still highly disproportionate, share of global poverty", the Report says.

Within countries and regions, there are also disparate concentrations of poverty. The weight of poverty falls most heavily on women and children.

Two elements of success

In analysing what policies have successfully reduced poverty in certain countries, the World Bank finds two major elements in them:

- *Promoting the productive use of the poor's most abundant asset—labour.* This is accomplished through policies that harness market incentives and use social and political institutions, infrastructure and technology to make the work of the poor more effective.
- *Providing basic social services to the poor.* Efforts to reduce poverty in the long run are not likely to succeed without "greater investment in the human capital of the poor", the Report stresses. Health, education and nutrition programmes address the main consequences of being poor. Education also attacks some of the most important causes of poverty.

The number of poor people could drop by 300 million by the end of this decade, it concludes, if the world community adopts development policies based on the two elements described above.

Progress against poverty

Despite the staggering numbers of poor people remaining, there has been much progress in the global struggle against poverty over the past 25 years. The Report gives the following indicators:

• Per capita consumption in the developing countries rose from $590 to $985 (in 1985 dollars) between 1965 and 1985.

• Levels of health and education improved in most countries even when incomes did not rise.

• Life expectancy lengthened from 51 to 62 years.

• Primary school enrolment rose from 73 per cent to 84 per cent. Nevertheless, 15 million children under the age of five in developing countries die from causes not normally fatal in the industrial world. Some 110 million children do not go to school at all.

The Report praises Governments for the progress made against poverty, but points out several deficient policies. On average, an estimated 70 to 85 per cent of the developing world's total health spending, both public and private, goes for curative care rather than for preventive and community services which would make a real difference for the poor, the Report says. Governments also tend to support higher-level education training programmes over basic education services that would favour the poor.

A successful strategy to reduce poverty would require:

▶ readjusting priorities in health and education;

▶ implementing family planning services; and

▶ giving extra help to the weakest members of the poor population—the old, the disabled, the widows and orphans—who need a system of income transfers and social safety nets.

How to measure poverty?

Knowledge about the poor is essential if Governments are to implement successful programmes to reduce poverty. But how is poverty defined?

The Report defines poverty as "the inability to attain a minimal standard of living". To make this definition work, three questions must be answered: How does one measure the standard of living? What is a minimum standard? How is the severity of poverty expressed in a single measure or index?

The World Bank searches the answers to those questions by analysing rural and urban poverty, the demographic characteristics of the poor, their assets and sources of income, their expenditures and their position in society.

This survey concludes that there are two "overwhelmingly important determinants of poverty": access of the poor to income-earning opportunities and their capacity to respond to them when they exist. When those opportunities are lacking and access to social services is limited, "living standards are unacceptably low".

What harms the poor?

What harms poor countries harms the poorest of the poor. The Report analyses the effects of trade, debt and aid on those countries:

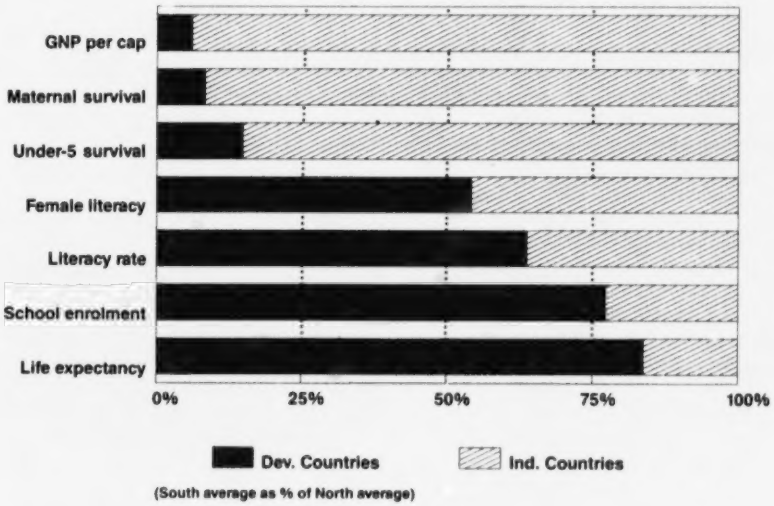
Trade. Many trade barriers raised by industrialized countries have harmed the poor. Over the long term, trade liberalization would help poorer countries.

Debt. Severely indebted low-income countries with large numbers of poor people are still struggling under their debt burden, despite the recent international debt-reduction initiatives. During the 1980s prices for many primary commodities exported by developing countries fell to their lowest levels since World War II.

Aid. Development aid should be more tightly linked to a country's efforts to reduce poverty. If countries become more serious about reducing poverty, the volume of development aid should be increased. In 1988, aid amounted to $51 billion. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, aid is projected to increase in real terms about 2 per cent a year, which would amount to $64 billion by 2000.

Aid could reach as high as $144 billion if all donors attained the widely-accepted 0.7 per cent aid to gross national product ratio, the Report concludes.

DISPARITIES BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES



Women are poorer

Poor rural women are the most deprived people in the world. They are sicker and more illiterate than men and lack the opportunities males have to better themselves.

That is the stark conclusion of two major studies on world poverty carried out in 1990: the *Human Development Report 1990* by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank's *World Development Report 1990*.

Both international development agencies, bringing 85 years of combined experience in the implementation of development programmes to their analysis of poverty, reached the same conclusion that women suffer the effects of poverty far more than men do.

Little progress in 30 years

"For more than half a billion poor, rural women, there has been little progress over the past 30 years", the UNDP analysis concludes. Many poor women are still illiterate. Their real incomes have either decreased or not increased. They face a high risk of death during childbirth and their children have almost no access to health care.

UNDP also finds:

- Female children in developing countries get less food, health care and education.
- Adult women get less education, professional training and compensation for even longer hours worked than men.
- The risk of death for an expectant mother in some developing countries is 50 times that in industrialized countries.
- The female literacy rate for the developing world is now three quarters that of the male.
- Much of the work that women do remains "invisible", not revealed in national accounting and censuses. Women work 25 per cent longer hours than men and much of their work—household activities and growing subsistence crops—is unpaid.

Poorer than men

The World Bank Report concludes that available figures on health, nutrition, education and labour force participation "show that women are often severely disadvantaged".

Data for 1980 indicated that women encounter cultural, social, legal and economic obstacles that even poor men do not. They work longer than men and, if they are paid, they receive lower wages.

Half a million die in childbirth

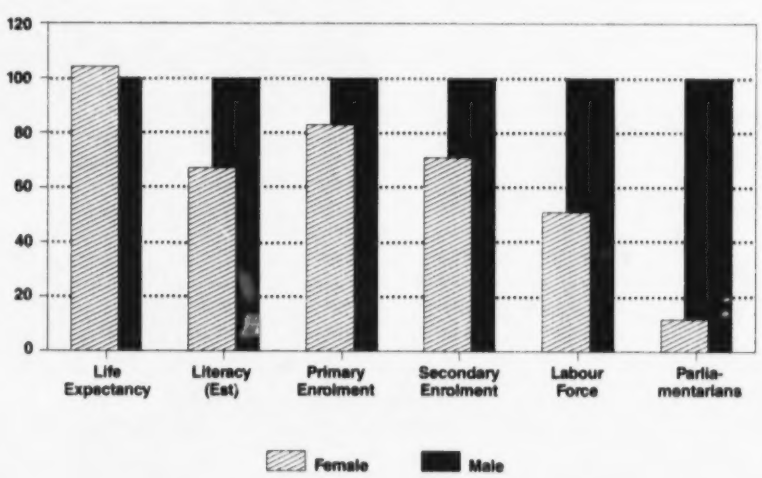
About half a million women, 99 per cent of them in the developing world, die in childbirth each year, the Report states. Geographically there were:

- 140,000 in sub-Saharan Africa;
- 308,000 in Asia;
- 34,000 in Latin America and the Caribbean; and
- 6,000 in developed countries.

To remedy that critical situation, the World Bank urges the improvement of family-planning information and services to enable women to time and space pregnancies. "In many countries, 25 to 40 per cent of maternal deaths could be averted by avoiding unwanted pregnancies", the report says.

Stronger community-based health-care programmes for women, better hospitals and health-care centres with beds to take care of complicated and emergency deliveries, and a transport system to transfer women with high-risk pregnancies to better facilities are also needed, the World Bank concludes.

DEVELOPING WORLD'S FEMALE—MALE GAP
(FEMALE AS % OF MALE)



Poverty may lessen by 2000, except in Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region where poverty is not likely to decline by the year 2000, the World Bank says. While 400 million people elsewhere could rise from poverty by the beginning of the twenty first century if the Bank's two-pronged strategy is adopted, high fertility rates in Africa would still make the number of the poor swell by nearly 100 million.

The Bank's *World Development Report 1990* states that family planning services are vital for poverty reduction, especially where a high population growth rate—such as the 3 to 4 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa—depresses per capita income which results in low wages and growing poverty.

The Report forecasts that some 265 million people, or 43.1 per cent of the population of Africa, south of the Sahara, would live in poverty in the year 2000. In 1985, the figure was 180 million (46.8 per cent). "By the end of the century, sub-Saharan Africa will account for more than 30 per cent of the developing world's poor, as against 16 per cent in 1985."

Even to hold the number of the poor in Africa at the 1985 level will require a massive effort which includes: gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5.5 per cent a year—almost 2 per cent higher than projected—a radical restructuring of industry, improved incentives and technology for agriculture and increased allocations of resources to primary education, health care, nutrition, and family planning. "This cannot be achieved unless Governments strengthen their reform efforts and donors increase their assistance", the World Bank states.

According to the *Economic Report on Africa—1990,* released by the Economic Commission for Africa on 15 May, there was a modest upturn in that continent's economy in 1989, mainly due to a surge in agricultural output and higher oil and mineral export earnings. But overall economic conditions remained precarious.

Africa's share in global trade is estimated to have fallen from 4.7 per cent in 1980 to 2.1 per cent in 1989. Inflation rates remained high on the continent, the Report says. Since 1980, per capita consumption has fallen by about 11 per cent, with far-reaching consequences in living standards and the quality of life.

Per capita incomes in South Asia should keep growing at an annual rate of 3.2 per cent—nearly three times the 1965-1980 rate. China's economy should perform well, although growth of per capita income is expected to fall from 8.7 per cent a year achieved in the 1980s to about 5.4 per cent.

In Latin America, the number of the poor is expected to remain the same. "Nowhere in the developing world are the contrasts between poverty and national wealth more striking than in Latin America and the Caribbean", the Report states. Despite average per capita incomes that are five to six times those in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, nearly one fifth of the population there still lives in poverty.

"This is because of the region's exceptionally high degree of income inequality", it says, adding that raising all the poor in the continent to just above the poverty line would cost only 0.7 per cent of regional GDP—the approximate equivalent of a 2 per cent income tax on the wealthiest fifth of the population.

UN Photo 154897/R Witlin

A brighter picture elsewhere

The outlook is brighter for other developing regions.

The sharpest fall in the number of the poor will take place in Asia. By 2000, average incomes in East Asia are expected to be 65 per cent higher, virtually eliminating poverty. East Asian countries are expected to reach an annual 5.1 per cent per capita income growth rate.

People-centred development is best

When people are placed at the centre of development programmes, high levels of human well-being can be achieved even at modest income levels.

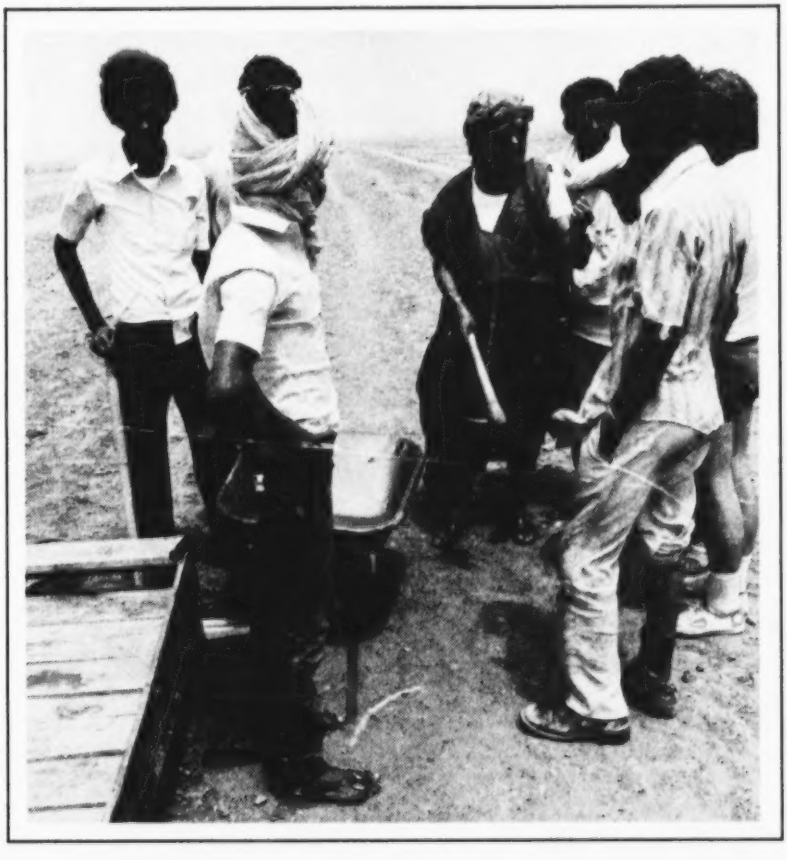
That is the central theme of UNDP's innovative study, the *Human Development Report 1990.* Released in May, the Report ranks 130 countries by a new measure of growth, the "human development index (HDI)", based on three essentials of human life—longevity, knowledge and decent living conditions—as measured by life expectancy, adult literacy and real per capita income adjusted for purchasing power.

The new index—which is calculated as a national average and according to gender, income, region and social groups—focuses on how economic growth translates into human well-being.

Analysing human well-being in 130 countries, the HDI ranks them in three categories on a scale from 0.1 to 1.0: low human development (0.1-0.5); medium human development (0.5-0.8) and high human development (0.8-1.0). For example, the HDI for Niger is 0.116; for Egypt, 0.501; for Malaysia, 0.800; and for Japan, 0.996.

The HDI illustrates how economic growth and wealth alone do not necessarily translate into greater human development for the majority of people. "The HDI ranks countries very differently from the way gross national product (GNP) per capita ranks them", the Report says. "The reason is that GNP per capita is only one of life's many dimensions, while the HDI captures other dimensions as well."

Countries such as Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Thailand have a better HDI than GNP ranking, indicating that they have directed more of their economic resources towards aspects of human development.



IFAD Photo/C. Rycroft

Central place of freedom and democracy

Another important feature of the UNDP study is the stress on freedom and democracy as measures of development. "Human development denotes both the process of widening people's choices and the level of their achieved well-being", the Report states. It also says that "human development is incomplete without freedom and democracy", and development really is the process of "enlarging people's choices.

"Any index of human development should therefore give adequate weight to a society's human freedom in the pursuit of material and social goals." However, there is no "simple quantitative measure available yet to capture the many aspects of human freedom—free elections, multiparty political systems, uncensored press, adherence to the rule of law, guarantees of free speech and so on", the study explains.

Nevertheless, the HDI reflects some aspects of human freedom. "If the suppression of people suppresses their creativity and productivity, that would show up in

income estimates or literacy levels", the Report says. Human development increases the capacities and strength of people to manage their affairs, "which, after all, is the essence of freedom".

Fifteen countries ahead

The Report lists 15 countries which have achieved a high level of human development (relative to other countries in the region), within a reasonably democratic and political framework:

Latin America and the Caribbean—Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela

Asia—Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand

Middle East and North Africa—Tunisia, Turkey

Sub-Saharan Africa—Botswana, Mauritius, Zimbabwe.

The authors of the Report indicate that they will study further the "link between human freedom and human development", and the need for methods to quantify indicators for freedom and democracy.

Progress made

The 189-page report is both optimistic and chilling in its analysis of progress made in human development and the severe problems of poverty that remain.

On the positive side, it gives progress made over the last three decades:

- Development has worked. North-South income gaps, while still large (1987 per capita income in the South was 6 per cent of that of the North), have narrowed.
- Developing countries have reduced their average infant mortality from nearly 200 deaths per 1,000 live births to about 79 from 1950 to 1985, a feat that the industrialized countries took nearly a century to accomplish.
- Life expectancy at birth in developing countries rose from 46 years in 1960 to 62 years in 1987.
- The adult literacy rate increased from 43 per cent in 1970 to 60 per cent in 1985.

Serious problems remain

While "never before have so many people seen such significant improvement in their lives," serious problems remain.

The Report summarizes them:

- 1 billion people in absolute poverty;
- 900 million persons cannot read or write;
- More than 1.75 billion people without safe drinking water;
- 100 million persons completely homeless;
- 800 million persons hungry every day;
- 150 million malnourished children under the age of five (one in three);
- 14 million children dead before the age of five; and
- 1.5 billion persons without access to primary health care.

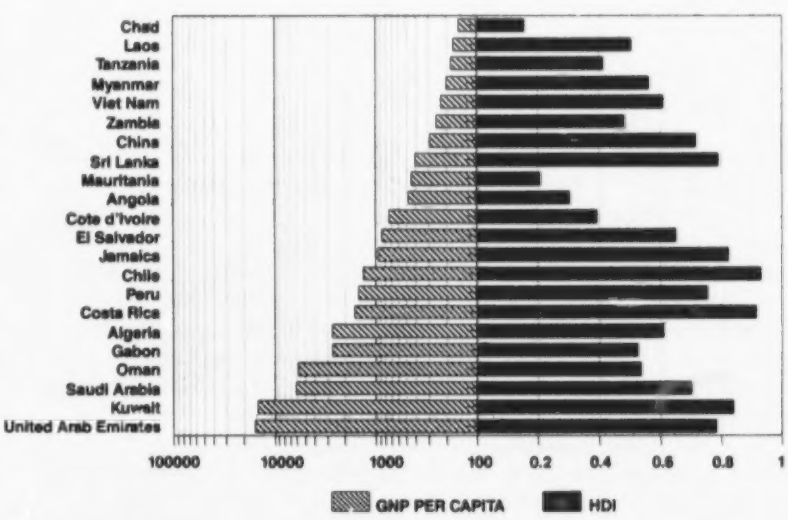
Where to get the money

Developing countries are not too poor to pay for human development and take care of economic growth. National budget priorities can be restructured and military expenditures reduced. Military spending in the third world "has risen three times as fast as that in the industrialized nations in the last 30 years and is now approaching $200 billion a year", the Report notes.

The human costs of economic adjustment are often a matter of choice, not compulsion. Developing countries could specify that "human development programmes should be the last, not the first, to be reduced in an adjustment period after all other options have been explored and exhausted", it says.

"In the 1990s, the rich countries must start transferring resources to the poor nations once again", the Report states. To do that, the debt crisis must be satisfactorily solved.

GNP PER CAPITA AND THE HDI (SELECTED COUNTRIES)



Helping the poorest of the poor

UN Photo 84729

Agreeing on how to help some of the poorest of the Earth's poor help themselves—more than 400 million people in 42 countries—is the goal of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (3 to 14 September, Paris). The Conference is expected to adopt a Programme of Action to accelerate development in those countries through the year 2000.

A similar programme for the 1980s was not fully implemented, due in part to a slump in commodity prices, inadequate international support and considerable domestic obstacles within these least developed countries (LDCs), including high population growth rates, increasing military expenditures, poor investment incentives and socially painful and economically lacklustre adjustment programmes.

Unlike its predecessor, the 1990s' Programme gives wider recognition to the role of the private sector, accepts the need for structural adjustment programmes, squarely addresses the issue of population and emphasizes the importance of the role of women.

Poverty rules

Poverty is widespread in the LDCs, 28 of which are in sub-Saharan Africa. Human life there can be harsh and brief. Dismal world records abound: LDCs have the lowest per capita income ($200 a year), literacy rates (two thirds of adults cannot read or write) and life expectancy on the planet.

Population growth, on the other hand, is so high that food production is unable to keep pace with it. Chronic diseases, malnutrition and hunger are everyday happenings.

Drought, desertification, vulnerability to natural disaster and lack of direct access to the sea—geography and climate—also conspire to keep these countries poor. Because they barely are able to produce industrial or manufactured goods, LDCs desperately depend on selling their commodities—such as coffee, rice, cocoa beans—abroad to get precious hard currency. This makes them virtual prisoners of fickle international commodity markets and price fluctuations.

What to do?

The Paris Conference must struggle with a number of issues left unresolved by its Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, which met in Geneva for two weeks in April to work out the draft Programme of Action to be adopted in Paris.

No agreement was reached on the draft on democratization, human rights and accountability

within the LDCs, financial aid targets, debt cancellation or relief and specific measures to reduce trade barriers.

The United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and other key donor countries maintained that democratization in the LDCs would encourage development and stimulate foreign aid.

"Is it only a coincidence that the vast majority of LDCs have one-party States or that the LDC with the largest military force also is the country with the greatest number of starving citizens? On the other hand, is it a coincidence that one of the few LDCs with a free press is also one of the most successful?", asked United States representative Morris Abram.

Fritz Fischer of the Federal Republic of Germany predicted that bilateral and multilateral support would "multiply its effects substantially if, in the future, more emphasis is given in LDCs to providing more democratic rights and to increasing the participation of the people in economic development".

Reflecting the views of many LDC representatives, Haiti's Marie-Josée Georges Garnier said that insisting on political stability as a pre-condition for aid would render their countries' least developed condition more intractable. "Poverty breeds corruption and aggravates social tensions that lead to political instability and thus delays the advent of democracy", Ms. Georges Garnier warned.

Success of the Paris Conference will be important not only for the LDCs and the developing world at large, but for all countries. Such success would be also important in preventing further marginalization of the South, as a whole, in the political and economic calculations of the North, said Kenneth Dadzie, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The LDC Conference will be held under UNCTAD's auspices.

This is particularly relevant at a time of "justifiable fears that the rising tide of change in Eastern Europe is diverting governmental and corporate attention and resources from the North-South agenda", Mr. Dadzie stated.

The least developed

In 1981, there were 31 countries officially described by the United Nations as least developed. Today there are 42. The gap between them and the other developing countries continues to grow. Some economists feel that, unless swift and effective measures are taken, a permanent underclass of nations could be created—much the same as that which has emerged among the chronically poor in parts of the developed world. The least developed countries are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu and Yemen.

UN Photo 156466/J. Isaac

Debt: an issue of responsibility

UN Photo 185780/M. Grant

In August 1982, the Mexican Government made a dramatic announcement: the country did not have enough money to make its next foreign debt payment. News of an imminent default by that nation rocked Wall Street. With the United States banking system threatened, Washington hastily arranged a bail-out for Mexico. But the problem refused to go away; Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru and 12 other big debtors all hovered on the brink. The "debt crisis" had been born.

But the crisis had not started in Mexico City on that sweltering summer weekend; its roots were global and could be traced back to the 1970s. Then eager to grow fast and goaded by commercial banks on Wall Street and other developed money meccas, a number of developing nations, mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean, started to borrow heavily abroad.

Awash in Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) money, banks were only too happy to lend. Governments were equally delighted to borrow, particularly since inflation was then much higher than interest rates and they could end up paying back less in real terms than they had actually borrowed. Borrowing, they all thought, made great economic sense.

All of this changed abruptly at the end of 1979 when the United States, trying to curb inflation and stop a major capital haemorrhage, adopted a tight-fisted monetary policy that sent interest rates skyrocketing. A few other major developed nations followed suit, and a world recession was triggered. Borrowing became prohibitively expensive worldwide.

Not only were new loans more expensive, but interest on old loans—most of which had floating rates—ballooned.

In early 1989, United States Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady proposed that banks write off a portion of third world debts and pass the benefits of secondary market discounts on to debtors. As an inducement to new bank lending, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank were asked to provide funding designed to make future debt-servicing payments more secure.

The Brady Plan approaches debt problems on a country-by-country basis. It can be applied only to debtors that accept IMF and World Bank conditionality, and assumes that large commercial banks will provide substantial amounts in fresh loans. So far, only a limited number of agreements have been concluded under the Plan's guidelines, although some 39 countries have been mentioned as potential beneficiaries.

A solution still remains to be found that is acceptable to both debtors and creditors and can break the spiral of debt, economic stagnation and social crisis into which some 70 indebted countries have been plunged.

In an effort to find a solution, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, in December 1989, appointed former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi as his Personal Representative on Debt. For the next six months, Mr. Craxi held high level meetings with Presidents, Prime Ministers and international banking leaders in Europe, Japan, United States and a number of developing countries.

Mr. Craxi handed in an interim report to the Secretary-General at a ceremony in Geneva on 7 July. Among other measures, the Special Representative recommended more resources for the Brady Plan, which he considered an underfunded yet "courageous approach in the right direction".

A brave new world in Eastern Europe

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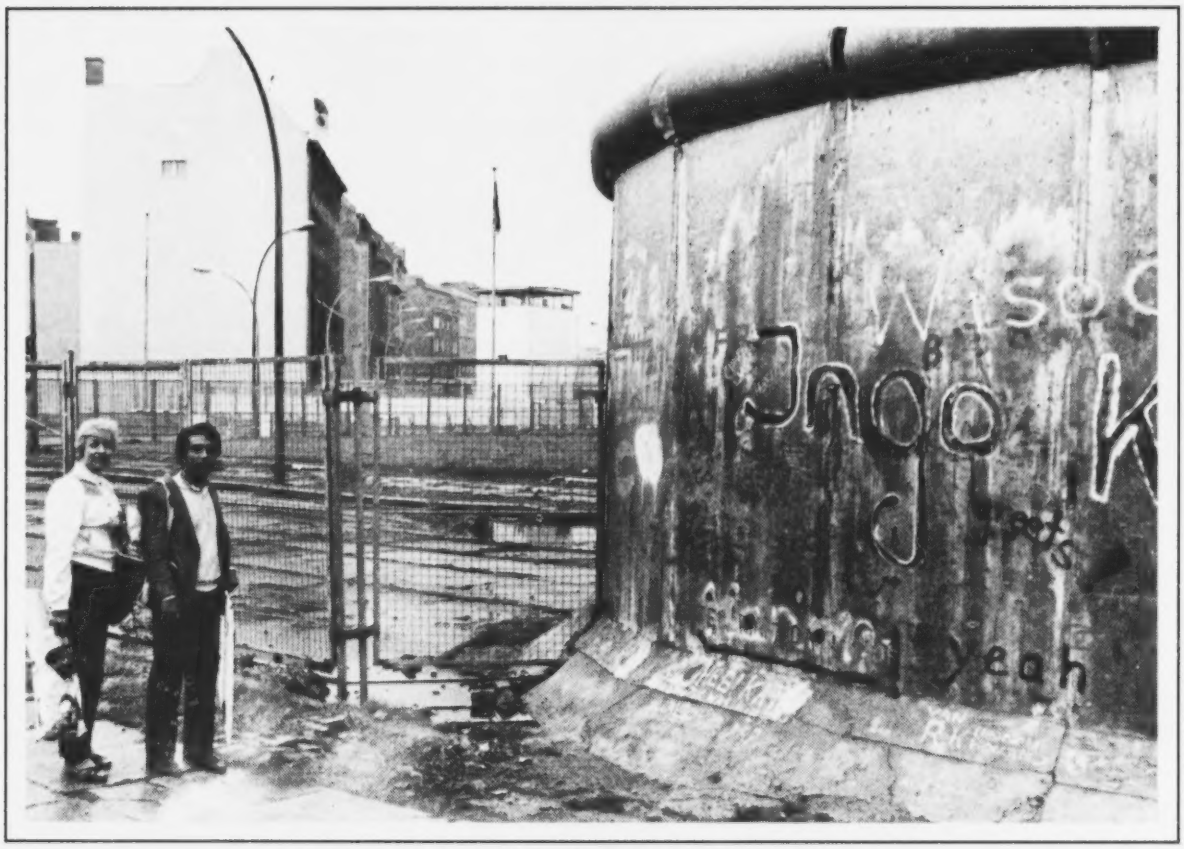


UN Photo/P. Sudhakaran

Before the fall: the Berlin Wall near Checkpoint Charlie.

An economic revolution is sweeping Eastern Europe. Centrally-planned economies are switching to free markets, prices fixed by supply and demand, private ownership, competition and foreign investment.

The economic transformation is following close on the heels of the political revolution that dramatically changed the face of the region in 1989. Except in Romania, change has been accomplished without bloodshed. Only Albania has stayed on a steady, strictly socialist course.

For the first time in over 40 years, openly-contested elections have been held in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary and Romania. Several communist parties are stepping down from Governments they have dominated since the end of World War II. The region has been engulfed by a tidal wave of civic activism, ranging from newly-legalized political parties and independent labour unions to environmental and women's movements.

This is how top international economic experts, both within and outside the UN, generally are describing recent changes in that part of the world.

Poland has opted for a "shock treatment" to quickly switch to a market economy. Severe austerity measures are being carried out: currency has been devalued and made convertible; subsidies slashed; money-losing state enterprises are being sold; and tax-evaders will be prosecuted.

The immediate results of this strong anti-inflationary medicine have not been pleasant for the Polish people. Prices soared by 70 per cent in January. Real income fell by 40 per cent. As factories were shut down, the number of unemployed rose from 9,600 in December 1989 to 55,800 in January 1990—1 per cent of the labour force.

The Government is expecting up to 400,000 jobless people but the figure could be much higher. Workers who lose their jobs would be provided with a safety net in the form of unemployment insurance and other measures.

Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki assured the International Labour Conference in Geneva on 12 June that his

Government wanted to give the market economy "a social content". The laws of the market should decide the creation of national income, he said, but income distribution policies should take due account of social objectives. Elected in June 1989, the new Polish Government is led by Solidarity, the previously banned independent trade union.

Hungary has a substantial head start since it started reforming its economy in 1968. The transition there is expected to be smoother than in Poland, but not without difficulties: a *de facto* wage freeze and rising prices have stirred worker discontent and the foreign debt is over $20 billion.

In Czechoslovakia, the Civic Forum Government of President Vaclav Havel is launching economic reform from a position of strength —the highest gross domestic product in Eastern Europe, a low level of hard currency indebtedness and a wide, popular mandate. But the new Government has also inherited the most polluted country in that ecologically troubled region.

Czechoslovakia plans to hold price controls more or less intact, within a mixed economy, while breaking up state-owned monopolies to gradually encourage competition and increase production.

Future reform in the German Democratic Republic will be shaped by imminent unification with the Federal Republic of Germany and inclusion in the European Economic Community.

So far, the pace of economic change has been slower in Bulgaria and Romania. The Communist Party-led Government in Bulgaria is trying to make State enterprises more flexible and has lifted price controls off some consumer goods, notably luxury items.

In Romania, the new leadership will have to revive an economy that has ground to a halt, in part due to strict austerity measures in the 1980s which allowed the country to virtually pay off all of its foreign debt.

A four-year transition programme to a regulated-market economy is being considered in the Soviet Union. Various market mechanisms have already been introduced, including private ownership of market prices and competition. Domestic political change and ethnic unrest, among other factors, have considerably slowed down the pace of economic change in recent months.

Short-term prospects are bleak for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and a recession there is almost certain in 1990, economic experts concur. However, medium-term projections are more optimistic, with a gradual improvement expected in the region's economic performance.

The UN is stepping in to help Eastern Europe's transition, without detracting from the Organization's commitment to the developing world.

UNICEF will help Eastern European Governments reinforce their safety net for children and mothers. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is opening an office in Warsaw later this year. The Programme is already helping several countries in the region fight widespread pollution and screen and co-ordinate the sudden rush of aid-offers from Western donors. It is also actively trying to raise funds to increase its current $26 million five-year programme for the area.

"We look forward to playing a major role in Eastern Europe", says UNDP Administrator William H. Draper, "but not at the expense of our programmes in the rest of the developing world".

Polish Prime Minister Mazowiecki told the International Labour Conference that the gap between rich and poor economies in Europe should be bridged, but not at the cost of directing aid away from the developing countries.

Poland wants to take active part in co-operating with third world countries as soon as it has surmounted its own difficulties, he asserted.

Perestroika in the USSR

The massive, 242-page World Economic Survey, 1990, *released on 3 July by the UN Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, devotes a long chapter to reforms affecting some important socialist economies, including the Soviet Union. The following excerpt is from the* Survey.

The characterization of current Soviet reform as one that aims at market relations is not really warranted as yet. Soviet decision-makers appear to envision essentially maintaining a considerable degree of central-policy control, including control through planning channels. They want micro-economic tasks to be discharged by decentralized units that are not completely free to decide on input and output profiles; that cannot choose sources of supply of primary and intermediate inputs and ways to best dispose of final products; and that have little control over price formation.

At the same time, the policy's aim is to integrate the Soviet economy more fully into the global economic framework without, however, automatically linking domestic with external prices as this might undermine the desired degree of domestic pricing and policy autonomy.

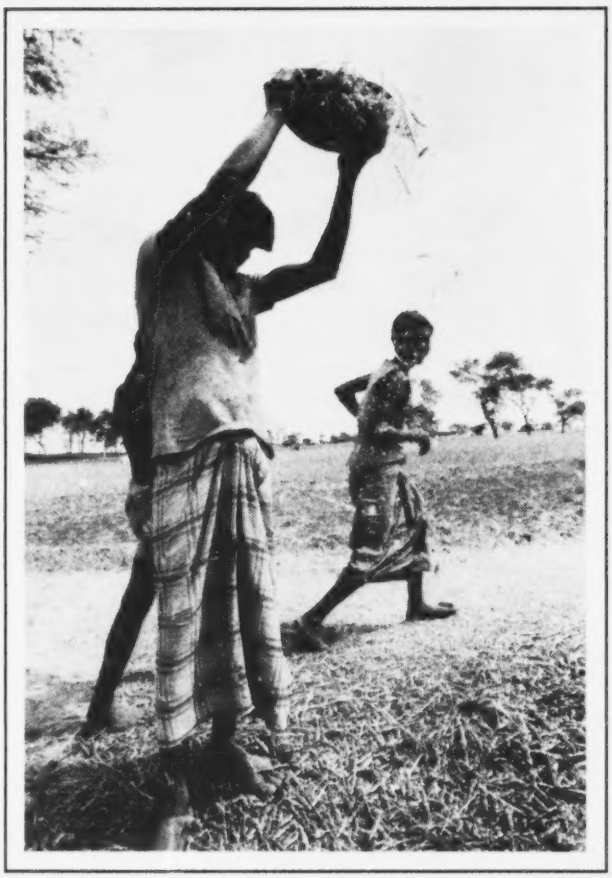
Pursuing decentralization in the absence of a competitive environment and efficient and flexible prices, including exchange rates, supported by a fully operative network of intermediating financial institutions and adequate instruments, can be risky and counterproductive. The experience with *perestroika* to date has amply underlined these dangers.

Working for a better life

Most UN funds and human resources are spent not in negotiating highly publicized and often controversial diplomatic issues, but on quietly helping two thirds of the world's people pull themselves out of poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease. Much effort also goes toward trying to make the global economy function in a smoother, more equitable way.

The Organization is currently discussing a third world plan of action geared to spur development through the year 2000. The International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade is expected to be adopted by the General Assembly later this year.

The following are some of the major players within the extended UN family specifically focusing on economic issues:



UN Photo

• **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**: The world's largest channel for multilateral technical and pre-investment co-operation, with 112 field offices in over 150 developing countries and territories. In 1989, there were some 5,900 UNDP-supported projects in operation, valued at $7.5 billion.

• **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**: A negotiating forum aimed at promoting international trade, particularly that of developing countries—also involved in research, conceptual innovation and policy analysis.

• **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**: Sets rules for the conduct of world trade. Its aims are to liberalize international trade, reduce trade barriers and resolve trade disputes. International Trade Center UNCTAD/GATT (ITC): Aids developing countries in export promotion.

• **World Bank**: A group of three institutions—International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA) and International Finance Corporation (IFC)—dedicated to help raise standards of living in developing countries by channelling financial resources to those countries from developed countries.

• **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**: Forum for consultation and collaboration on international monetary issues. Administers a code of conduct regarding exchange rate policies and makes financial resources available to members with payment problems.

• **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**: Helps developing countries promote and accelerate their industrialization. A forum for consultations and negotiations, it also encourages investment promotion activities and transfer of technology to and between developing countries.

• **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**: Lead agency for rural development in the UN system. Its aims are to eliminate world hunger and improve nutrition. With the UN, it sponsors the **World Food Programme (WFP)**, which uses food commodities, cash and services contributed by UN Member States to back social and economic development programmes, as well as for emergency relief.

• **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**: Makes low-interest loans to the poorest rural communities. By mid-1989, had invested $2.65 billion in 247 projects in 91 developing countries. When completed, projects should benefit some 180 million people.

• **Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD)**: An arm of the UN Secretariat, it provides technical expertise, training and direct advice to Governments in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of country and inter-regional development projects.

• **Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA)**: Carries out interdisciplinary research and analyses of global economic and social trends. Publishes *World Economic Survey* each year and, periodically, *Global Outlook 2000* and *World Social Situation Report*.

Global TV for a small planet

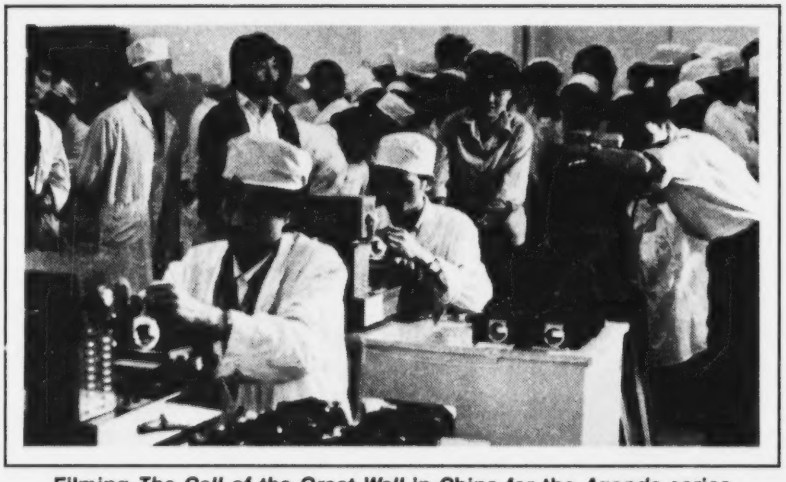
With the UN acting as catalyst and co-ordinator, 15 television networks from all regions of the world are co-producing 15 half-hour TV programmes highlighting experiments in living that offer positive models for the twenty-first century.

The series—*Blueprint for the Future*—is the brainchild of Jean Tetrault, an articulate, Paris-based independent producer. With seed-money from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), which also gives him technical support, Mr. Tetrault, who is from Quebec, Canada, has produced three similar series since 1980.

Agenda for a Small Planet, as the entire project is known, so far has brought together 55 television networks to produce an equal number of programmes on subjects ranging from Javanese culture to the impact of nuclear fear on children. Mr. Tetrault estimates his audience at more than 200 million people.

The first series focused on relations between poor and rich countries. The second—*The Message from the South*—a more ambitious venture in 1984, paired networks from seven industrialized countries with seven filmmakers from developing countries. *Disarmament*, the third series aired in 1985, pulled together 24 networks from all regions in a celebration of peace, Mr. Tetrault said.

Networks and filmmakers from places as geographically and culturally distant from each other as Finland and Malaysia, Australia and Bangladesh, Japan and Ecuador, The Netherlands and Romania, Czechoslovakia and Nigeria, and China and Senegal have worked together in this global television effort.



UN Photo 168318

Filming *The Call of the Great Wall* in China for the *Agenda* series.

A small miracle

Mr. Tetrault says that it takes a lot of work to pull off this small human and technological miracle.

For *Blueprint for the Future*, now in the pre-production stage, he has given each participating network a well-researched, 137-page proposal covering 15 possible programmes—*Anatomy of a Financial Nightmare*, for example, would target global debt, while *New Minds for New Times* would tackle what Tetrault calls "the regeneration of the minds", which he feels is needed for the survival of the planet in the twenty-first century.

Other themes proposed are education for the twenty-first century, breaking the poverty cycle, a new economic ethos, and from local to global participation.

But the proposals "are not set in stone", Tetrault says. They simply identify the main thrust of the series and suggest a number of innovative experiments which the filmmakers may want to cover. The networks have considerable leeway in suggesting themes within the general framework. They are responsible for their own treatments and scripts.

At a meeting in Geneva in October, participants will discuss and choose from among submitted themes. Treatment outlines will be thrashed out in January 1991. At a final meeting in July 1991, work-prints will be screened. Distribution of the series to all participants is scheduled for September 1991. The official launching will be at UN Headquarters.

Each network pays for its own programme, including the cost of sending its people to the Geneva meetings. In exchange, they get all distribution rights within their own country for all other programmes in the series.

In return for their involvement as co-ordinators and catalysts, DPI will have world-wide non-commercial distribution rights, except in the countries of the participating networks, and CIDA will receive exclusive commercial and non-commercial distribution rights in Canada and through Canadian missions abroad.

Environmental issues, code of conduct, discussed in TNCs Commission

UN Photo

Peter Hansen, Executive Director of the Centre on TNCs *(centre)* : The 1990s was a 'lost decade'.

Issues relating to the environment, a code of conduct and business operations in South Africa were the major focus of the sixteenth session (New York, 2-12 April) of the Commission on Transnational Corporations (TNCs).

The Commission also discussed recent developments concerning international economic relations and strengthening the negotiating capacity of developing countries in their dealings with TNCs, as well as activities of the UN Centre on TNCs, international standards of accounting and reporting and the role of TNCs in services, including transborder data flows.

The positive change in the perception of foreign direct investment and the role of TNCs in world development, evident in recent years, were again reflected at the session. A principal concern was the declining share in world wide investment inflows of developing countries.

Commission Chairman Marek Kulczycki of Poland said TNCs had become "a lasting and dynamic element of modern economic relations".

Antoine Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, said technological progress, structural adjustment programmes in developing countries and the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union were leading to greater reliance on market forces and closer interrelationships in the world economy, thus strengthening global interdependence. TNCs now had the potential to play a more significant role in promoting global economic integration and increasing trade and transfers of capital, technology and managerial expertise.

Peter Hansen, Executive Director of the Centre on TNCs, said that for many developing countries "the 1980s represent a lost decade". With much of the world's attention and resources now focused on Europe, "there is a real danger that the problems of developing countries will not receive the scrutiny they deserve", he said.

Commission action

The 45-member body recommended that a comprehensive study be prepared for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, focusing primarily on how TNCs could provide access to and transfer environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on a concessional and preferential basis.

Also proposed was the creation of an environment fund financed by TNCs. A report on TNCs and the environment was considered. The role of TNCs in sustainable development with particular reference to climate change was explored, as was progress in the area of environmental protection in developing countries.

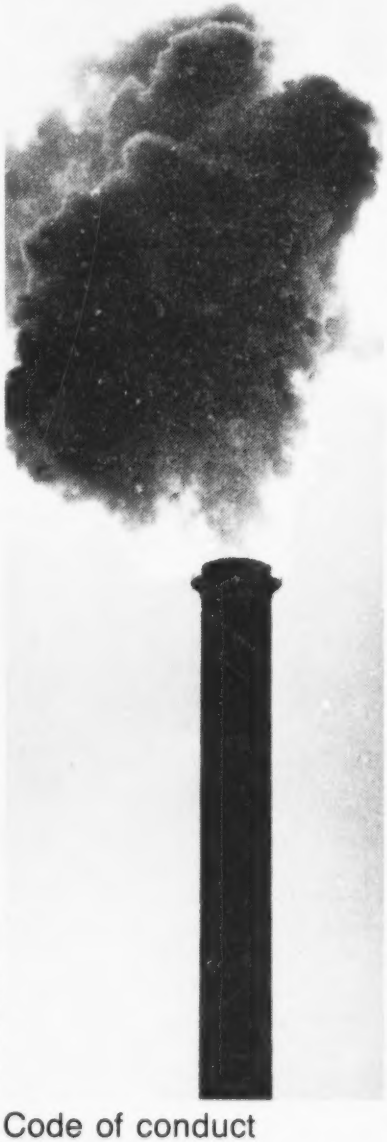
A set of criteria to strengthen the participation of TNCs in environmental protection was put forward. A report on UN involvement in reviewing hazardous technologies and safer alternatives, including compiling a directory on the subject, was examined.

A number of reports was recommended on issues ranging from the role of transnational banks in reducing the external debt of developing countries to the promotion of foreign direct investment in developing countries.

The Commission also asked the Economic and Social Council to condemn the United Kingdom decision to lift unilaterally the ban of the Commission of European Communities on new investments in South Africa, and ask the United Kingdom to rescind its decision without delay.

TNCs that collaborated with South Africa would also be condemned. Governments of TNC home countries would be called upon to consider adopting measures to ban all forms of collaboration by TNCs with Pretoria.

The Secretary-General would be asked to prepare studies on the level and forms of operations by TNCs in South Africa, and an updated study on the responsibilities of home countries with respect to TNCs operating in South Africa.



UN Photo 139307/M Tzovaras

Code of conduct

At a reconvened special session on 24 May, the Commission decided to inform the Economic and Social Council that it had not been able to conclude negotiations on a code of conduct for TNCs. The Council was asked to decide "on the future course of action in this regard".

A list of major pending issues was to be prepared. Commission Chairman Miguel Marín-Bosch of Mexico reported that most previsions of the draft code, which had been prepared, had been agreed to by members.

A report said that informal consultations on the code had intensified in 1989, following a symposium held at The Hague in September of that year. There, international economic scholars had proposed ways to resolve the outstanding issues.

TNCs in South Africa

The Commission heard reports on measures relating to trade, finance, investment and technology transfers to South Africa. While sanctions against South Africa were considered effective, their impact was seriously undermined because they were not comprehensive, universal and, in many crucial areas, mandatory.

The most effective corporate sanctions, it was stated, had been the cessation in 1985 by transnational banks of all new lending to South Africa. That had turned that nation into a capital-exporting country, with outflows totalling more than $12 billion since 1985. However, in October 1989, 13 transnational banks had rescheduled payments on South Africa's large foreign debt, the effect of which had been to smooth capital repayments over a longer period than had previously been possible.

Nearly 600 TNCs, their independently operating subsidiaries or their affiliates had disinvested from South Africa between 1 January 1984 and 31 December 1989, it was stated. Some 314 were United States-based, another 136 based in the United Kingdom.

None of South Africa's major trading partners had adopted comprehensive mandatory trade sanctions, and thus it had continued to meet many of its basic trading needs.

UNICEF calls for priority focus on girl child

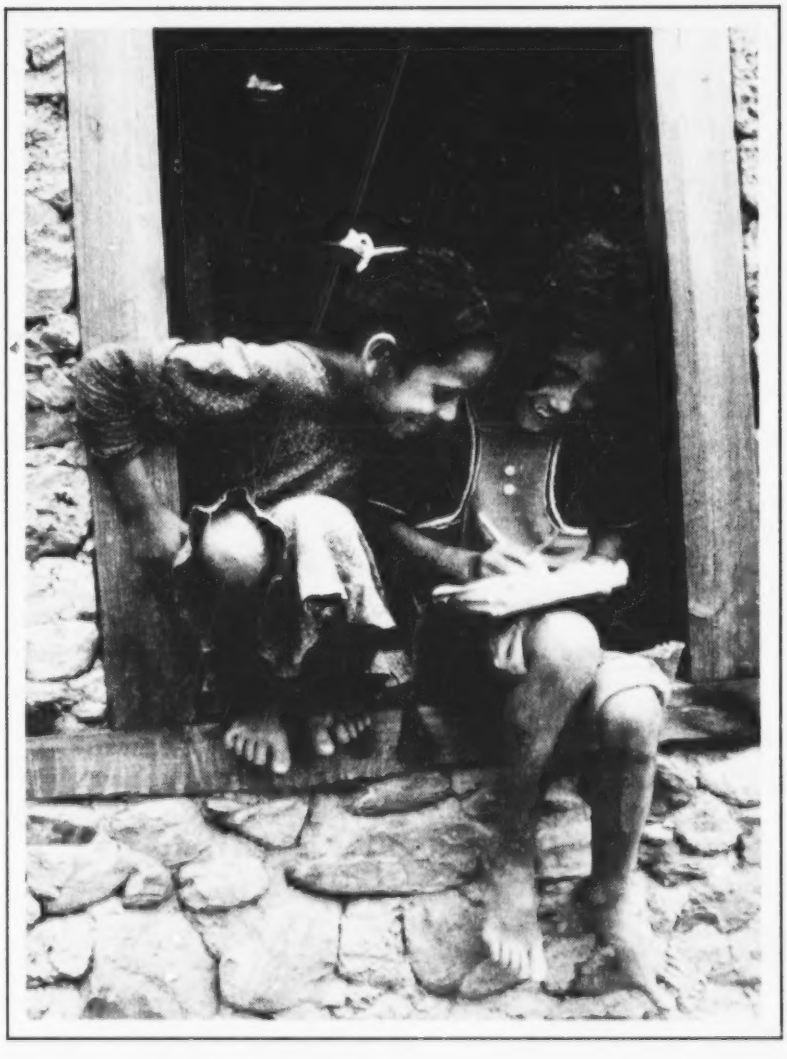
All programmes of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and strategies in the 1990s will address explicitly the status of the girl child and her needs, particularly in nutrition, health and education, with a view to eliminating gender disparities.

The recommmendation was made by the UNICEF Executive Board at its 1990 regular session (16-27 April). Endorsing the priority focus given to the girl child, the Board also asked UNICEF to implement gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess progress made in reducing disparities between girls and boys in health care and primary education programmes.

The Board also requested UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant to highlight the girl child in the annual report on women in development and to submit to the 1992 Board session and every second year thereafter, a full report on progress made on the situation of the girl child.

Other issues discussed at the session were the situation of large numbers of homeless, abandoned, displaced and street children in South Africa, children and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and the situation of children in Central and Eastern Europe where, Mr. Grant said, new policies of restructuring and openness were creating some problems, especially for the most vulnerable.

The Board approved $1 million in annual transitional support for Central and Eastern Europe in 1990-1992. UNICEF would offer to help Governments in that region rethink policies for child survival. This would be done without diverting resources committed to support developing countries.



UN Photo 155722/J. Isaac

UNICEF's 1990-1991 budget will be $926.7 million. The World Summit for Children, set for 29 to 30 September at UN Headquarters, is budgeted at $1.48 million, with another $1.9 million going to related activities.

"Children should be at the centre of society's concerns", Mr. Grant told the Executive Board on 27 April.

The purpose of the Summit, he said, was to mobilize political leadership in support of UNICEF's goals and strategies and to identify and encourage accelerated action in other forums on child-related issues. More aid should be given to primary health care and basic education.

Developed nations promised aid to curtail drug demand

London Summit tightens measures against cocaine threat

A commitment by developed countries to help developing nations curtail drug demand was among agreements reached at a three-day international summit against drugs (9-11 April), organized in London by the United Kingdom Government, in association with the United Nations.

The World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat ended with the adoption by consensus of a Declaration by which 124 countries, both developed and developing, committed themselves to give higher priority to prevention and reduction of illicit drug demand at the national and international levels.

The Declaration stresses that particular efforts should be made "at local community and neighbourhood levels and at the level of the individual family, to address local problems as perceived by the community, which may mitigate the initiation and continuation of drug misuse".

To reduce drug demand in the workplace, it recommends that employers be encouraged to develop and implement drug prevention programmes. Counselling, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers are among promising measures to help reduce demand, it stated.

To combat the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), the Summit called for "more strenuous efforts to be made by all countries to draw a greater number of drug abusers, particularly those who inject, into contact with treatment services and agencies".

Combating the cocaine threat would require "comprehensive and multidisciplinary" strategies comprising measures to reduce illicit demand for cocaine and other drugs, eliminate illicit crop cultivation and drug trafficking, prevent the use of financial and banking systems for drug money laundering and promote effective treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration.

The Declaration backs a proposal to convene an international conference on precursor chemicals used in illicit drug production. That proposal was made in the 1990 Global Programme of Action unanimously adopted, together with a Political Declaration, by the General Assembly at its special session to combat drug abuse last February.

UNOV Photo

Princess Anne of the United Kingdom *(second from left)* delivered a major address to the Summit. Also pictured *(left to right)*: Co-ordinator Anstee, Home Secretary Waddington, and UN Director Francisco Ramos-Galino.

A high-level meeting

Some 650 participants, most at the ministerial level, attended the Summit, the first such international gathering that specifically focused on drug demand reduction.

UN drug control bodies and other UN agencies, as well as major intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations such as the European Economic Community, also sent expert representatives.

The London Summit was chaired by David Waddington, Secretary of State for Home Affairs of the United Kingdom. Work was conducted in two committees open to all participants—one on demand reduction; the other on the cocaine threat. David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, presided over the demand reduction committee. The cocaine threat committee was chaired by Lynda Chalker, Minister of Overseas Development, and Timothy Sainsbury, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Summit was opened on 9 April by United Kingdom Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and Colombia President Virgilio Barco-Vargas also addressed the meeting. Keynote presentations were made by Kenneth McNeill, Minister without Portfolio of Jamaica, on demand reduction, and Antonio Gava, Italy's Minister of the Interior, on the cocaine threat.

Princess Anne of the United Kingdom spoke on drug abuse and young people at a plenary meeting. The Summit's closing statements were made by Mr. Waddington and by Margaret J. Anstee, Coordinator of all UN drug control-related activities.

"No glamour in drugs. . ."

British Prime Minister Thatcher stated that efforts to reduce illicit drug production and prevent trafficking would never succeed while there was still demand for them. Reducing demand, she said, is less dramatic and newsworthy than arresting traffickers. But without customers, these drug merchants would soon be out of business.

"There is no glamour in drugs, only depravity and despair", Mrs. Thatcher said. Advertising and publicity might sometimes have to be "painfully explicit" about the consequences of drug use in order to deter more people, particularly the very young.

Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar stated that a more favourable international climate in which to tackle the global drug problem now existed: "We no longer speak of 'those at fault' or of 'victims', but of 'shared responsibility'."

He suggested mobilizing support from young environmentalists against drug abuse by pointing to the link between drug cultivation and environmental degradation.

Anti-drug news

Experts to review UN anti-drug structure

A group of 15 independent experts, who will review the UN anti-drug structure and suggest ways to improve it, was appointed by Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar on 27 April. It is to begin work on 12 June in Vienna. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar will report later this year on the group's recommendations to the forty-fifth General Assembly.

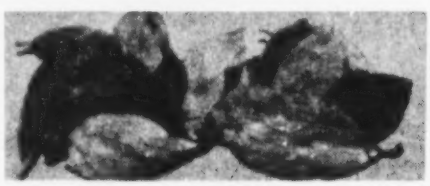
The experts, serving in their personal capacity, are from Colombia, India, Italy, Hungary, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, USSR, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Colombia: Help on the way

Colombia's efforts to combat drug production, trafficking and abuse will get a boost, thanks to a $20 million contribution from the Italian Government through the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control. The contribution was announced on 18 May.

The Netherlands will give the Fund 4.7 million Dutch guilders (about $2.5 million) to help subsidize four projects against drug abuse in major Colombian cities—Bogota, Bucaramanga, Cali and Medellin.

The new contributions are part of the $34.5 million Fund programme for Colombia, which focuses on prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and other areas.



COCA LEAVES

COCAINE BASE

There was also a need, he added, to enhance public information campaigns on the relationship between drug addiction and AIDS.

Colombian President Barco-Vargas said that it was imperative to "reformulate the UN institutions which were responsible for, but lacked the power and resources to curb the problem". There was general agreement on the need to set up an agency to provide effective, definite guidance and co-ordination in the battle, he said.

"maximum effect". He also hoped that the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control—"the leading edge of the UN effort"—would go "from strength to strength" with increased support from the developed world.

UN drug activities co-ordinator Anstee called the summit discussions "intense, wide-ranging and valuable". But, she added, "clearly the conference must be followed by deeds".

The regular UN budget for core anti-drug activities was roughly the equivalent of the street value of one suitcase full of heroin, Ms. Anstee remarked, calling on the international community for a very substantial funding increase.

As with any institution, the structure of UN drug units in Vienna could be improved, she said. Based on an ongoing review, the Secretary-General would present proposals at the end of this year. She hoped the international community would deal with the matter "in a pragmatic way".

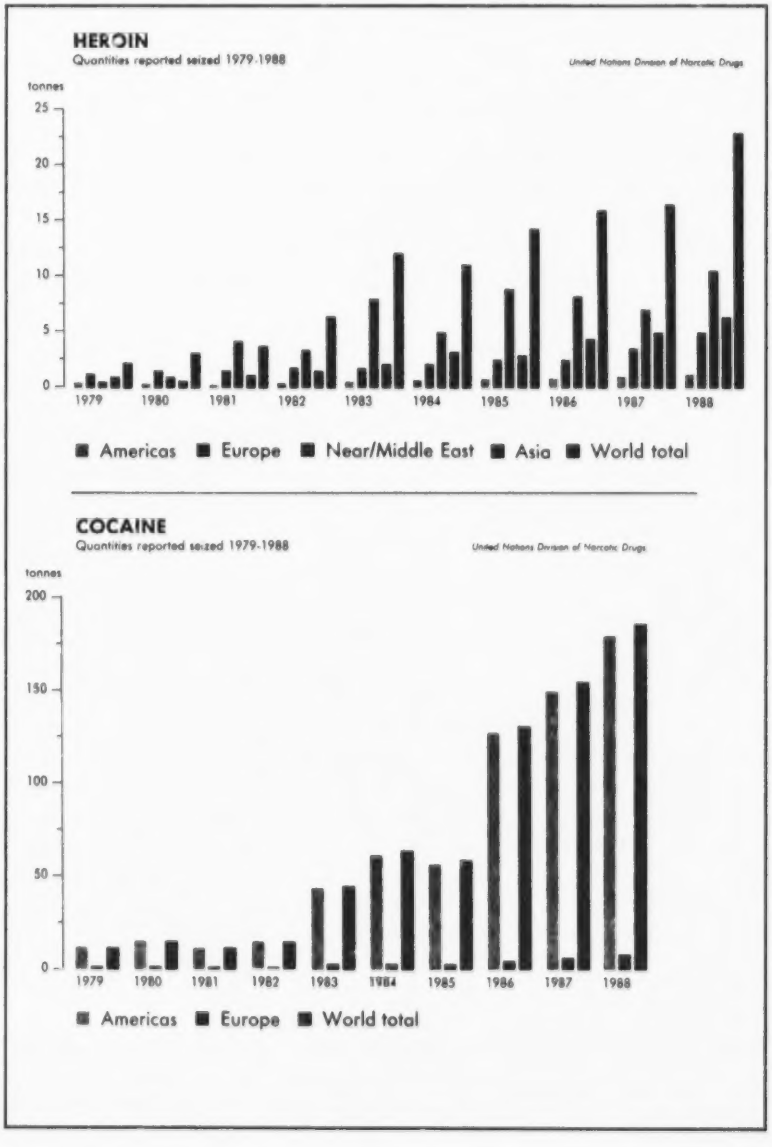
How much are people willing to pay?

Addressing the Summit on 10 April, Princess Anne said that asking producers in developing countries to stop growing coca leaves was like asking Scots to stop growing barley or the French, grapes. What had to be decided in the developed world was how much people would be willing to pay for such commodities as coffee and cotton, which could serve as substitute crops.

Cutting production, intercepting traffickers and reducing demand, all had to be approached together. But it would be foolish to think that demand would be completely wiped out, she said. However, to reduce demand it was necessary to attack some popular myths, including that it was "fashionable to be a slave to a passing sensation".

United Kingdom Home Secretary Waddington said at the closing session that some real progress had been achieved regarding the cocaine threat. While crop substitution in producer countries was a positive strategy, account must be taken of the need for a market for new crops, he stated.

Mr. Waddington applauded the UN decision to review the structure of its Vienna-based drug bodies and hoped that the result would be one unified drug body under a full-time head, for



Some Declaration highlights

At the London Summit, it was generally felt that the craving for drugs, once mostly associated with developed countries, was now a world-wide phenomenon, cutting across national boundaries, class, race and income levels. However, a few highly industrialized nations, particularly the United States, continued to provide the largest drug markets.

The need to emphasize combating drug demand was highlighted in February 1990 at the Cartagena Summit, which resulted in a Declaration signed in the Colombian coastal city by the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and the United States. The Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action against the drug scourge, adopted a week later at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, also dramatized increasing anti-demand pressure. The London Summit furthered that trend.

Some highlights from the London Declaration follow:

- All countries should have effective national strategies to prevent and reduce drug demand. Drug abuse prevention and treatment should be part of national health, social, education, legal and criminal justice strategies.
- More money should be invested in national drug prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes.
- The highest importance is attached to developing greater exchange of information and intelligence sharing on drugs at national, regional and international levels.
- Drug education should be developed at all school stages. Training about drugs should be given to teachers in all disciplines.
- Prevention programmes in the workplace should be developed and implemented, and employers should be encouraged to arrange training for managers and supervisors.
- Mass media campaigns against drugs should be used. They should be credible, well-targeted and non-discriminatory towards victims of drug addiction and HIV infection.
- Countries should provide a social infrastructure to foster improved living conditions, adequate employment and recreational opportunities for those affected by drug abuse.
- Intensified efforts should be made to provide suitable alternatives to prison for drug-abusing offenders who wish to undertake treatment.
- The UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control should devise a strategy for the Andean sub-region, where most of the world's coca is grown and illicitly processed into cocaine. The Fund should receive increased support for this activity.
- Drug crop eradication programmes must safeguard human health and preserve the ecosystem.
- Participation of growers themselves in crop eradication programmes is desirable. New economic opportunities must be fostered in order to dissuade them from initiating or expanding illicit cultivation.
- Countries commit themselves to ratify or accede to the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Meanwhile, they will try to apply its terms provisionally.
- National measures, as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements, are needed to control illicit drug traffic by sea and air.
- There should be no safe havens for the proceeds of drug trafficking. Efforts to conclude agreements for their identification and confiscation will accelerate.

43rd World Health Assembly

Call for increased aid to developing countries for effective health development programmes

Developed countries have been asked by the forty-third World Health Assembly (7-18 May, Geneva) to increase their assistance to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, to establish effective health development programmes.

Additional support from developed countries was asked to reach the goal of health for all by the year 2000 through primary health care. The Assembly recommended providing this aid through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the World Health Organization (WHO).

The annual meeting was attended by some 1,000 delegates, representing 167 WHO member countries. Dr. Plutarco Naranjo Vargas, Ecuador's Minister of Health, presided. Namibia—formerly an associate member—became a full-fledged WHO member after its 21 March independence, accepting WHO's constitution on 23 April, the same day it became the UN's 160th Member State.

A trust fund for the reconstruction and development of Namibia's health system is to be established. The Assembly also asked WHO to provide intensified technical co-operation and assistance for health programmes there.

The implementation of special technical assistance to improve the health conditions of Palestinians in the occupied territories was asked,

WHO 23/T.Farkas

The Assembly met in Geneva in May.

as well as a study of Palestine's application for full WHO membership.

Also requested was a substantial expansion of WHO's programme of health, medical and relief assistance to Lebanon, which had "critical" health problems.

Diagnosis: 'Unacceptable health conditions'

Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, WHO Director-General, told the Assembly that "in spite of overall technological and economic progress, especially in the developed world, for the majority of the population in many developing countries, the basic conditions for health, socio-economic development and daily living remain unacceptable".

People in developing countries, he stated, "still carry the double burden of having to cope with infectious diseases, while facing many of the degenerative diseases previously associated with development".

He stressed that the health issues of the 1990s could not be dealt with in isolation. "They are inextricably related to issues of development and social equity. We must strive to close the poverty gap both between and within countries." He said that "only in this way can we realize our current hopes and prospects for peace and quality of life, in our time and for future generations".

Dr. Nakajima emphasized that primary health care was the most cost-effective approach to health care with an acceptable quality for all persons.

The Director-General also stressed that, despite gains in agriculture and health technology, there was still evidence in many countries of widespread malnutrition and improper nutritional practices. There was a need to "better confront the increasingly serious problem of malaria control".

Dr. Nakajima noted that "in the past, WHO has concentrated on developing concepts and theories and has striven to achieve symmetry and perfection in its activities". However, he warned, it was clear that "unless we now stress implementation, focusing on activities of the highest priority, a number of Member States will not achieve the goal of health for all by the year 2000".

WHO/T Farkas

Basic health conditions in many countries 'unacceptable', says Director-General Nakajima.

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe and Guilio Andreotti, President of the Council of Ministers of Italy, addressed a special session of the Assembly.

Mr. Mugabe said existing gross inequalities in the health status of people in the world, particularly between developing and developed countries, as well as within countries, were politically destabilizing, socially immoral and economically counter-productive.

He stressed that economic development based on a new international economic order was of fundamental importance if the reduction of the gap in the health status of peoples between developing and developed countries was to be accomplished, and health for all attained.

He also stressed that "health interventions emphasizing the primary health care philosophy will not lead to significant health development if issues like the persistence of mass poverty and hunger, rampant population growth, environmental degradation and agricultural neglect are not simultaneously addressed".

Mr. Andreotti said the health of mankind represented an absolute and inalienable right that must be defended "if we wish peace and development to progress jointly in order to realize social justice across the planet". He added: "We need a new civilization based on solidarity, a development process centered on man and his requirements." For that reason, it was necessary to promote all actions designed to improve the quality of life and, in some cases, even to ensure the very right to existence.

He stated that he had been struck by the results of a study

showing that the objectives of world health could be effectively attained at the current levels of spending if available funds were used in a more rational and efficient way. That was why he advocated that the UN, WHO and the international community should prepare practical policies which would realize forcefully the principle of participation and the responsibility of local communities. They should not only benefit from assistance, but should also be the agent of their own health development.

Ten new members were elected to the 31-member WHO Executive Board. Designated by Governments, but serving in their individual capacity, the newly-elected members were nominated by China, France, Iraq, Myanmar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, the USSR and the United States.

Drugs, AIDS, smoking

WHO Member States were asked to implement measures in the 1990 UN Global Programme of Action against the scourge of drugs, adopted at a special session of the General Assembly held last February, and in the Political Declaration adopted at the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held in London in April.

WHO was also asked to increase its efforts to prevent the spread of drug abuse in individuals, families, communities and countries, and to develop effective approaches to the treatment of drug dependence and associated diseases.

Noting that the theme of World AIDS Day on 1 December 1990 will be "Women and AIDS", the Assembly urged Member States to ensure that programmes for the control of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) were co-ordinated or integrated with other programmes for women, children and families. They were asked to recognize in the WHO Global Strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS and in their own national AIDS programmes the crucial role of women, and women's and non-governmental organizations in preventing HIV transmission and caring for people with AIDS-related diseases.

The Assembly expressed deep concern at the increasing evidence of the dangers to health posed by "passive smoking"—the result of smoke inhaled by non-smokers. Increased support was asked for the 1988-1995 WHO plan of action to reduce the use of tobacco products and the consequent risks to health.

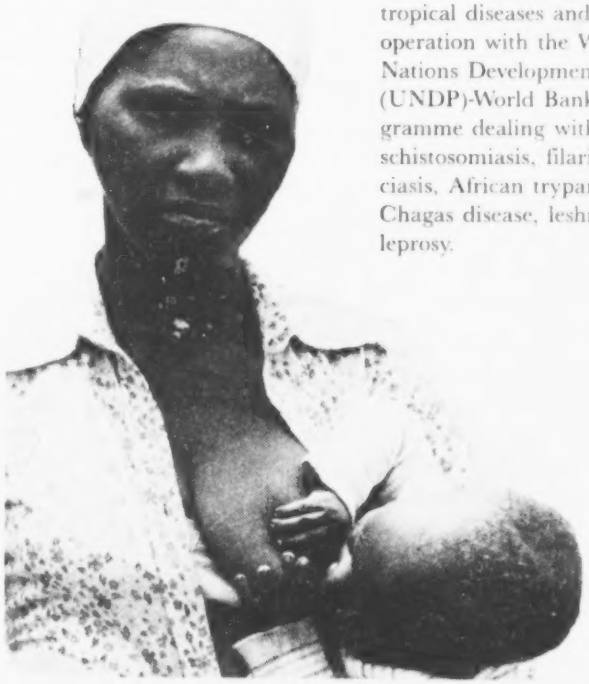
WHO now estimates that, unless current smoking rates decrease, there will be 3 million tobacco-related deaths per year in the 1990s, rising to 10 million per year by 2020.

Infant nutrition, hazardous wastes, tropical diseases

Reiterating concern over the decreasing prevalence and duration of breast-feeding in many countries, the Assembly urged WHO Member States to protect and promote the practice as an essential component of overall food and nutrition policies and programmes on behalf of women and children. The goal should be that all women breast-feed their infants exclusively during the first four to six months of life, the Assembly said.

WHO Member States were also urged to strengthen programmes for environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, in accordance with health-based standards and extend health surveillance systems to identify adverse effects of actual or potential exposure to hazardous substances.

The Assembly appealed to the pharmaceutical industry to increase research and development regarding tropical diseases and to intensify co-operation with the WHO-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-World Bank special programme dealing with malaria, schistosomiasis, filariasis, onchocerciasis, African trypanosomiasis, Chagas disease, leshmaniasis and leprosy.



UNICEF/Horst Max Cerni

Concern over decrease in breast-feeding in many countries.

Other issues

The Assembly decided that WHO would aim at eliminating iodine deficiency disorders as a major public health problem in all countries by the year 2000. That decision was taken in view of the progress already achieved and the promising potential of current and planned national prevention and control programmes. The International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders was commended on its efforts against conditions affecting some 1 billion people throughout the world.

WHO should continue to help the "front-line" States (Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe), as well as Lesotho and Swaziland, to solve the acute health problems of South African and other refugees.

ICRC Photo/Y. Muller

In Angola, a nurse instructing staff of a rural health centre at Baïlondo.

Noting the desire of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela—countries of the Andean sub-region of the Americas—to work closely together on selected priority health problems in a true spirit of technical co-operation, the Assembly urged support for the Andean Co-operation in Health Initiative.

Assembly honours six individuals, government health centre, NGO

The forty-third World Health Assembly gave awards to six individuals, a government primary health care centre and a non-governmental organization (NGO) for their outstanding service to the health of the peoples of the world.

The recipients were: Professor H. M. Gilles (United Kingdom); Dr. S. Pattanayak and Dr. B. N. Tandon (India); Professor Cosme Ordanez Garcellar (Cuba); Dr. Mohammed Azim Karimzad (Afghanistan); Monsignor Fiorenzo Angelini (Italy); the Musaga Health Centre (Burundi); and the Biankouri Health Centre (Togo).

The Darling Foundation Prizes were awarded to Professor Gilles and Dr. Pattanayak. The Foundation grants periodically a medal and a prize to a malariologist who has produced distinguished work on the pathology, etiology or prophylaxis of malaria.

The Léon Bernard Foundation Prize for outstanding work in social medicine was awarded to Professor Garcellar for development of social medicine and primary health care nationally and internationally.

The A. T. Shousha Foundation Prize went to Dr. Karimzad, a pioneer of malaria control in Afghanistan. The Assembly established the Foundation in 1966 in memory of Dr. Shousha, the first Director of the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, to honour a person making the most significant contribution to resolving a health problem in the region.

The Sasakawa Health Prize for innovative work in health development was awarded to: Monsignor Angelini, Archbishop of Messene, Italy, and President of the Pontifical Council for Health of the Holy See; Dr. Tandon, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, India; and to the Biankouri Health Centre, Togo. The Centre is a network of 42 sites providing integrated primary and maternal and child health care.

The WHO annual award for health education in primary health care was given to the Musaga Health Centre in Burundi. Serving a population of more than 50,000 people, it provides integrated preventive and curative health services focused on maternal and child health, nutrition, immunization and education for good health.

Information Committee reaches consensus after complex negotiations

Information Committee Chairman Fasehun of Nigeria: 'Deadlock overcome'.

The 74-member Committee on Information has recommended that the General Assembly urge all countries, the UN system as a whole and all others concerned to assure journalists free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them.

The Assembly, which would reaffirm its own primary role in elaborating, co-ordinating and harmonizing UN policies and activities in the field of information, would also call upon the UN system to promote a more comprehensive and realistic image of the activities and potential of the system.

These recommendations were among those adopted by consensus by the body on 2 May in two draft resolutions. The first text was entitled "Information in service of mankind"; the second, "United Nations public information policies and activities". The recommendations will be transmitted to the General Assembly's Special Political Committee for further review.

Agreement was reached on the texts following complex negotiations which began on 5 April, the day the Committee session began. The consensus was the first achieved since mid-1983 when the Committee had agreed on a set of recommendations for approval by the Assembly.

Committee Chairman Orobola Fasehun of Nigeria referred to "the spirit of good will in contemporary international relations", which had enabled the Committee to overcome the stalemate that had deadlocked it for years. The broad agreement on a new world information and communication order and on freedom of information was a "significant milestone" that should lead to concrete assistance to developing countries, he said.

"We can look forward to the enhancement of the communications infrastructure of developing countries and the development of their media through international co-operation in an environment that promotes freedom of information", he observed. He hoped the consensus would "enable us to increase the funds available to DPI".

Georges Leclère, Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Public Information (DPI), speaking on behalf of Under-Secretary-General Thérèse Paquet-Sévigny—in Namibia on an official visit—said the consensus marked the end of a turbulent period and the beginning of a new chapter. He called attention to the importance of a common approach to the two concomitant priorities of the international community: promotion of the free flow of information at all levels and in all directions and the strengthening of developing countries' information infrastructures. DPI, he said, would continue to improve and enhance its effectiveness.

In addition to Chairman Fasehun, Committee officers are Peter Janus of the Netherlands, Mansoor Suhail of Pakistan and Alexandre N. Boutsko of the Ukrainian SSR, Vice-Chairmen; and Ricardo Lagorio of Argentina, Rapporteur.

Recommendations

Among the recommendations were the following:

The General Assembly should urge all countries, the UN system as a whole and "all others concerned" to reaffirm their commitment to Charter principles and to principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the "independence, pluralism and diversity of the media";

Deep concern should be expressed at the consequences of disparities between developed and developing countries affecting the capability of the media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their "cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production", as well as ensuring the diversity of sources of and their free access to information;

In that context, the call for "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process", should be recognized;

A reduction in disparities in information flows at all levels through increasing assistance to developing countries for development of their communication infrastructures and capabilities;

Due regard be given to the needs and priorities attached to such areas by those countries, to enable them and the public, private or other media in those countries to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process and ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

A call for strengthened training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries. Enhanced regional efforts and co-operation among developing countries, as well as co-operation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communication capacities and improve media infrastructure and communication technology in developing countries;

Full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), "which should support both public and private media".

Guidelines

The second draft would have the Assembly set out a series of guidelines for the work of DPI, requesting that the Department's activities be strengthened and improved. UN information centres would be asked to intensify communication exchange with local media, information and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. Full programme delivery by all regional radio units was asked. Consultations should be expedited to assist States broadcasting, or willing to broadcast, to South Africa to enable their radio transmitters to be heard inside that country.

DPI would also be asked to: co-operate more regularly with UNESCO to maximize the Department's contribution to UNESCO's efforts; enhance co-operation with news agencies, particularly those of developing countries; continue dissemination of information on UN activities; and continue efforts to promote an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the UN system and to strengthen the image of the UN system as a whole.

DPI would also be asked to encourage the sale of its materials and to provide unhindered access by all people to all UN information centres and all materials distributed through them.

The improvement in format and printing of the *UN Chronicle* would be welcomed. Also, the Secretary-General would be asked to make further efforts regarding the timely appearance of the *Yearbook of the United Nations*. He would be urged to continue efforts to secure a sound and stable financial basis for *Development Forum* and *Africa Recovery*.

Finally, the Committee recommended that its membership be increased to 78, with the addition of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Iran, Jamaica and Uruguay.

Chronicle BookWatch

World Media Handbook

UN Department of Public Information (DPI)
UN Publications, New York, 1990
299 pp., $38. ISBN 92-1-100426-8

A handbook of the world's media in 67 countries hosting UN information centres (UNICs) is a helpful addition to any reference library. It has a well-designed format, country profiles, including data on geography, demography, culture (official languages, student population and illiteracy rates) and telecommunication systems. Listings of newspapers and magazines, news agencies, broadcasting, associations of journalists and institutions for training in mass communications are also provided.

Decolonization and World Peace

Brian Urquhart
University of Texas Press, Austin, 1989
121 pp., $6.95. ISBN 0-292-71559-5

After more than 40 years of high-level service at the UN, former UN Under-Secretary-General Brian Urquhart still succeeds in opening complex subjects of world significance for everyone to understand. A good example is this collection of his lectures from 1988. Drawing upon history and his firsthand experience, he considers the decolonization process, African independence, Palestine, the Iran-Iraq war, peace-keeping and the future of the UN system. The relevance of his analysis is underscored when he asks, in reference to the Middle East: "What is the international community to do with a country that believes it is under a dangerous threat from another country?" He sees this as one of the great problems of the UN system.

Unasylva: An International Journal of Forestry and Forest Industries, Vol. 41, No. 1

Food and Agricultural Organization, Rome 1990
64 pp., $16 yearly

Unasylva marks its return to regular quarterly publication after a two-year hiatus, resulting from FAO's difficult financial situation, with an issue devoted to forestry and food security. In six articles and an interview, experts consider such aspects of this situation as forest foods, nutrition, fuelwood, farm and woodland management.

The World Summit for Children

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
New York, 1990. 44 pp.

Like the Convention on the Rights of the Child (which entered into force on 2 September), the World Summit for Children, to be held on 29 and 30 September at the UN in New York, is another step towards achieving a new priority for children—a "first call". UNICEF, which is serving as the Summit's secretariat, has published this brief guide to the needs of the world's children and what more must be done to meet them. If present trends continue, over 100 million children will die of preventable diseases and the effects of malnutrition in the 1990s.

Review and Appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action: 1989 Report Population Studies, No. 115

UN Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA)
UN Publications, New York, 1989
45 pp., Sales No. E.89.XIII.11 ISBN 92-1-151185-2

The 1984-1989 assessment of the World Population Plan of Action provides a broad overview of 31 issues arranged in seven topics such as socio-economic development and the environment, the role and status of women and the promotion of knowledge and policy. Some of the news is good. In developing countries, for example, life expectancy at birth increased and infant mortality declined. Maternal mortality, however, remains severely high in many of these same countries and the AIDS epidemic worsens. The *Review and Appraisal* provides a useful statement of needs and recommendations in the population field.

World Debt Tables, 1989-90: External Debt of Developing Countries Vol. I: Analysis and Summary Tables Vol. 2: Country Tables

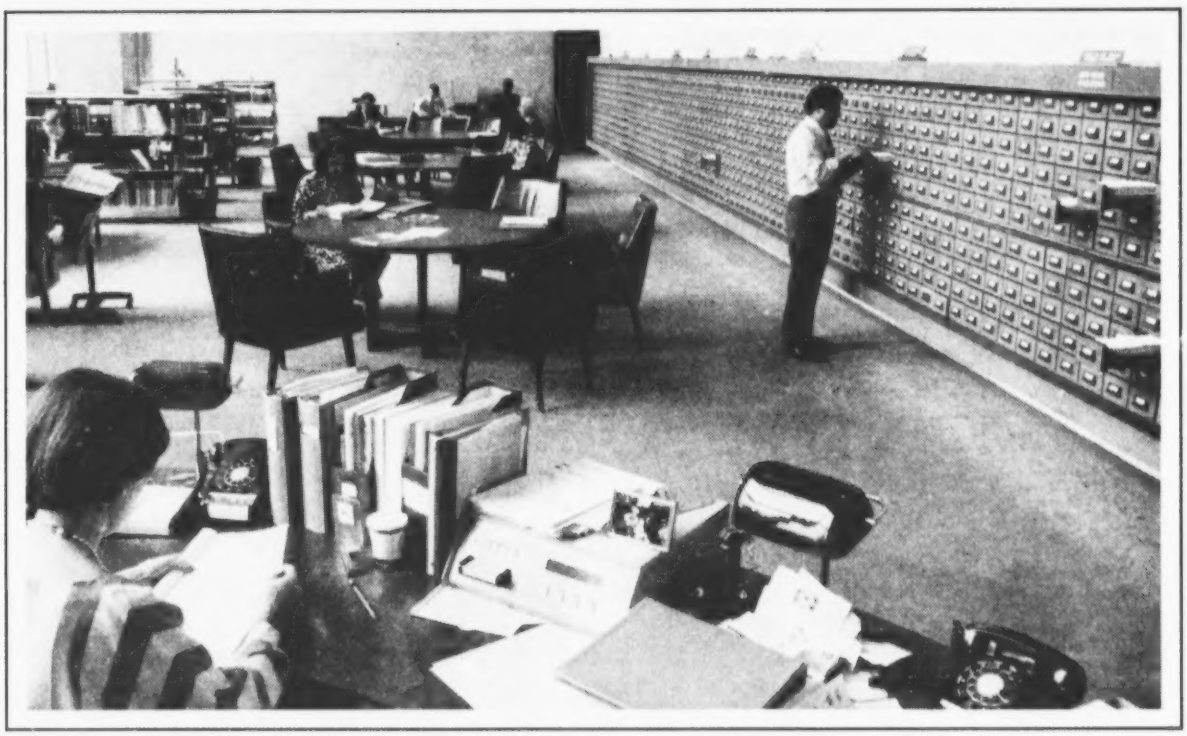
The World Bank, Washington, D.C., 1990
147 pp., 467 pp. ISBN 0-8213-1408-4 (2-vol. set)

The total external debt of all developing countries in 1990 is projected at $1,319 billion, $29 billion more than the 1989 estimate. According to this new edition of the World Bank's debt tables, the increase is due largely to a rise in long-term borrowing from official sources. The review of debt reduction activities that accompanies the regional and country data makes this year's edition more indispensable than ever.

It's an information jungle out there . . .

The changing image of the UN Library

By Elsa B. Endrst



UN Photo 169540/Y. Nagata

The UN Library: An all-around information service.

A poster hanging in the office of a staff member of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library at UN Headquarters in New York pictures several people on a safari, seemingly lost. The caption reads: "It's an information jungle out there, let your librarian be your guide." The poster, issued by the American Library Association, is indicative of new trends affecting libraries around the world.

"A library is no longer merely a storage place for books and documents", said Jakob Van Heijst, a native of The Netherlands, who has been Director of the UN's Dag Hammarskjöld Library since August 1989. It's not only the central library at UN Headquarters, but also the co-ordinating library for the entire UN system. "The tendency everywhere", he continued, "is that the library is involved in the distribution of information. It serves as an all-around information service, providing institutions and organizations with all kinds of data."

Mr. Van Heijst said that in this day and age, having books or other material available on the premises is no longer the primary function of a library. Nowadays, the ability to locate needed information, with the aid of the most modern technologies, is considered most important.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library—situated at the southern end of the 18-acre UN complex along Manhattan's East River—in the course of a year lends some 160,000 items and answers 85,000 reference queries, mostly from Permanent Missions and Secretariat staff.

Librarian Van Heijst: 'Not just a storage place'.

Each year, it acquires some 422,000 items, including books, journals, magazines, maps and other materials. It also provides training for librarians from Member States, Missions and depository libraries, who come to New York to learn more about UN documentation by hands-on experience.

The Hammarskjöld Library was established in 1946. In 1949, the General Assembly stated that the Library's primary function was to enable delegations, the Secretariat and other official groups of the Organization "to obtain, with the greatest possible speed, convenience and economy, library materials and information needed in the execution of their duties".

Before joining the UN, Mr. Van Heijst was Director of the Royal Library at The Hague (the national library of the Netherlands) and Director of the Utrecht University Libraries. He has also written books and articles on history and library subjects, related particularly to organization and automation.

The UN Library is a very complicated system, Mr. Van Heijst notes, with much of its information scattered all over the world. In his view, the Library must obtain the information and transmit it to those who need it at the right time.

The Library is now in the process of creating an integrated "United Nations Libraries Management Information System", with the goal of completion by 1993. It would provide multi-user capability and networking with other UN offices. The General Assembly has also approved an Optical Disc system for UN parliamentary documents.

The main task of the Library, Mr. Van Heijst said, is to index and store all UN documents to make them more accessible to the user. The majority of the Library's 140 staff members of 54 nationalities are involved in these two processes. Most of these documents are available in the six official languages of the UN.

The Library has loan arrangements with the New York Public Library and other metropolitan libraries, and is connected with external data bases on many different subjects. It provides access to most of the important newspapers and magazines in the United States through NEXIS, a newspaper data service. A user recently asked what had appeared in a particular newspaper over the past two years on a specific liberation movement, and some 100 references were immediately supplied. "It's unbelievable how much facts we can get from the outside", Mr. Van Heijst said, "especially through telecommunication lines."

Also available on computer is data supplied via "Compact Disc/Read Only Memory" (CD/ROM) which stores more than half a million pages of text.

"Information is becoming an expensive article", he said, "and access to information is really decisive in many areas. A country which does not have the information it needs may fall behind in everything."

If the fees for telecommunications services are too high for a country, the Director suggests using CD/ROM. "We have to deliver documentation in such a way that it may be used everywhere. That may not always be easy, but the library must see to it that it is available." United Nations information centres are also major sources of information, particularly in the third world.

More and more, functions associated with libraries are being automated in an effort to improve existing services, broaden the spectrum of services and reach potential users. The United Nations Bibliographic Information System (UNBIS), which now services 39 missions in the New York area, is an on-line information system which offers bibliographic, factual, numeric, full text, support and authority control files. The system is operated by the UN Library in co-operation with the Electronic Services Division of the UN.

Mr. Van Heijst hopes that the Library, as the primary information centre at UN Headquarters, will be used more often by Secretariat staff and Missions. "We'd particularly like to inform everyone of all the services available and that our staff is always eager to help." In that jungle of information out there, let the UN Library be your guide.

On the lighter side

A Different Kind of Diplomat

By Elsa B. Endrst

Norman Manjaka is not a trained diplomat and yet his skills of diplomacy, discretion and tact are tested daily. As Manager and Maître d'Hôtel of the Delegates' Dining Room at UN Headquarters in New York, he greets and seats ambassadors and other dignitaries from all over the world—and ordinary tourists as well—with the same elegant manner.

Like a general, Mr. Manjaka directs a staff of 30 from a desk covered with flags of many of the 159 UN Member States, just outside the fourth floor dining room.

His duties include overseeing the serving of some 80,000 lunches a year in the spacious dining room —with floor-to-ceiling glass windows facing north and east—overlooking the East River. And on many evenings, he announces guests—sometimes including Presidents, Prime Ministers and Kings—at the more than 500 diplomatic receptions held there each year.

Having studied hotel management at a school in Switzerland, Mr. Manjaka arrived in America and worked at the posh Swiss Pavillion restaurant in Manhattan before coming to the UN in 1973.

Reflecting on his 17-year experience as manager of the UN Delegates' Dining Room, he believes that the restaurant is unique because of its "open-air feeling, the stunning view of the river and the special flavour that diners from many cultures lend to the atmosphere".

The main dining room, which seats more than 300, is also a popular meeting place for UN visitors. Three smaller dining areas—used for private lunches during the week—are available on weekends for weddings, bar mitzvahs and other special parties given by individuals and corporations. "We're doing well", says the tall, handsome Jordanian. "We're at least 30 per cent ahead of last year's attendance, so we must be doing something right."

UN Photo

Mr. Manjaka in the UN Dining Room.

A feeling of caring, the manager says, includes providing a personal touch for diplomats accustomed to good food and prompt service. "We try to keep the standards as high as we can, with moderate prices, so they can afford to eat here every day", he notes.

"I think both the ambassadors and other regular patrons are very pleased with what we do here. Some have even said that if they were to grade us, we would certainly get four stars."

The dining room also accommodates groups of up to 50 persons who have booked guided tours of the UN. After the hour-long tour, they take the elevators to the dining room where their buffet lunch begins around 11:15 a.m. This, the manager explains, enables them to finish by 12:45 p.m., just before the beginning of the regular lunch hour for many diplomats and top UN officials.

The UN Dining Room has a daily buffet table some 30 feet long, overflowing with all kinds of international dishes—roasts, stews, fish entrees, hot and cold salads, soups, pastas, pâtées, even some dietary dishes—and a mouth-watering array of sumptuous pastries, fruits and other desserts.

Sometimes there is a theme—June was "Eggplant Month", for example. Asparagus and avocado have also been featured.

Mr. Manjaka observes that over the years, he has been encouraged to see delegates from different countries, who just minutes before may have heatedly disagreed in a political debate in the Assembly Hall, standing side by side at the buffet table, often selecting the same entrees.

"The world may change constantly", he says, "but food is universal. Gastronomy cannot be computerized."

A staff of three hostesses, 15 waiters and six busboys is multilingual—one or another fluent in Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic, Italian, Czech and Russian, as well as English. At the buffet, the high-hatted chef or Mr. Manjaka himself explain the wide variety of foods available and also caution some diners against dishes that might offend religious or cultural tradition.

What does Maître d' Manjaka like most about his job?

"I enjoy catering to these special people", he responds. "It's one of the most interesting jobs in New York City, I would say." He has met many of the world's luminaries and is pleased when he is recognized by them, particularly when they return in a new official incarnation.

For example, a former ambassador, now the leader of his nation, recently returned to the UN to attend a diplomatic reception. Mr. Manjaka recalls that after congratulating the new Prime Minister, he was told: "Thank you, Norman, for your kind words, but I venture to say that you are far more secure in your job than I am in mine." Regular patrons of the Dining Room hope that this is true.

UNStamp Corner

On 26 June, the UN Postal Administration (UNPA) issued a set of six stamps and three souvenir sheets to honour the forty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. Since 1955, it has been an UNPA tradition to honour UN anniversaries every five years with a special commemorative stamp issue.

Although each stamp has an individual design, they are all related by a unifying design element—in this case, a graphic depiction of the number "45".

The three souvenir sheets measure 100 x 73 millimetres. One souvenir sheet incorporates the United States 25-cent and 45-cent stamps; another the Swiss franc (SwF) 0,90 and 1,10 stamps; the third, the Austrian schilling (S) 7 and 9 stamps. The same background appears on all three sheets.

Stamps may be ordered by writing to: United Nations Postal Administration, P.O. Box 5900, Grand Central Station, New York, New York 10163-9992, U.S.A.

While most commercial stamp dealers sell UN stamps, they can only be used on mailings at UN postal stations in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

UN Photo

A Look Back...1865

ITU—125 years old

At the cutting edge of telecommunications

By Monica Gutestam

In 1865, the most popular means of transportation was by horse and carriage. It was a year of many developments and changes, both in Europe and in America. In March, Confederate President Jefferson Davis signed a bill subjecting slaves to military duty in his army. Free delivery of mail was provided in all United States cities with a population of 50,000 or more. In April, United States President Abraham Lincoln was shot. The year 1865 also saw the birth of the International Telegraph Union, later renamed International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The oldest intergovernmental organization in the UN system, ITU celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.

Direct studio broadcasting in the 1920s.

ITU 770437

When the telegraph service reached the international level at the beginning of the nineteenth century, it became necessary to regulate the use of equipment, coding and rates. A legal régime was also needed to protect telegraph wires, which by now were crossing international borders. Thus, in 1865, 20 States met in Paris to draw up the first set of telegraph regulations—the International Telegraph Convention, later to become the International Telecommunication Convention.

From the Titanic to the space age

After setting up headquarters in Bern, Switzerland, and hiring three employees, the Union set to work. Throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century, it revised and redrafted international telegraph regulations, forbade telegrams "contrary to public order or decency" and tried to deal with the problem of private codes and the strain they imposed on telegraphists.

The invention of radio in 1895 and 1896 brought dramatic changes in both telecommunications and the ITU. At first regarded purely as an advanced form of telegraphy, it was soon realized that radio opened up new possibilities for quick and accurate communication.

But there were also problems with this new invention. In 1912, the Titanic sunk, claiming 1,513 victims. Many

could have been saved had the Titanic's radiotelegraph operator succeeded in his frantic and repeated attempts to communicate with a ship within rescue distance. But his plea for help went unanswered. The other ship's operator had gone off duty for the night.

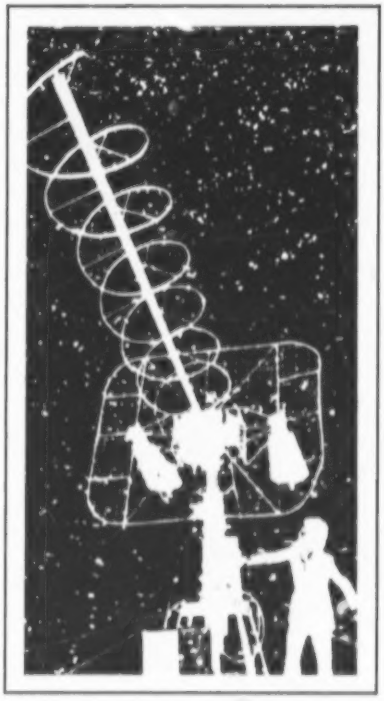
After the tragedy, it became clear that if radio communications were going to be used, especially at sea, international regulations regarding operation and frequency spectrums were necessary.

In the early 1920s, a new form of radio service began—broadcasting. This gave rise to a problem that still remains one of the Union's biggest tasks—how to share radio frequencies without interference between stations. Today, ITU is responsible for allocating frequency bands to all radio services, including satellite, mobile and broadcasting operations.

In 1947, two ITU conferences were held in Atlantic City, United States, to develop and modernize the Union. ITU became a specialized agency of the UN, responsible for telecommunications. The agency's headquarters was moved from Bern to the more international atmosphere of Geneva. That same year, the International Frequency Registration Board was established to manage the increasingly complex radio frequency spectrum.

In the 1960s, the "space age", with its soaring developments in telecommunication, presented ITU with new challenges. For most of that decade, the Union was involved in preparations for the exploration of outer space with the help of telecommunications.

Telecommunication—from the Greek Tele, which means "far"—is long distance communication. The ITU charter defines it as "any transmission, emission or reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, optical or other electromagnetic systems". ITU is responsible for telegraph, telephone and radio, as well as all their applications, including data transmission, satellite communication and television.



TASSO Latsn

Two main tasks

The two main tasks of the 166-member Union today are to promote international co-operation and to foster technical development in the telecommunications field. Its final goal is to make those services everywhere more efficient, useful and available to the public.

Every five years, all ITU Member States meet at a Plenipotentiary Conference, the agency's main policy-making body. ITU World and Regional Conferences meet regularly to deal with more specific technical questions.

World Conferences follow such issues as broadcasting, aeronautical communications and mobile services. Regulations are also revised there. Use of the radio frequency spectrum and the geostationary satellite orbit are all internationally regulated.

In 1989, the Telecommunications Development Bureau was set up to strengthen technical assistance to developing countries. The Bureau will implement projects financed by UNDP—approximately $30 million a year for some 200 projects. It will also co-ordinate technical co-operation and assistance activities.

Aside from the Bureau and the International Frequency Registration Board, ITU headquarters in Geneva houses a secretariat, the International Radio Consultative Committee and the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee.

The two Consultative Committees study technical and operating issues in their specific fields. Their influential reports and recommendations are the basis for international telecommunications standardization.

For the past 125 years, ITU has developed an international telecommunication network far beyond what was imaginable in 1865. Today, the telegraph is no longer necessary when we can daily communicate globally through facsimile, videophones, cordless telephones and mobile telephones.

Over the last four years, ITU has investigated the possibility of an international standardization of high definition television (HDTV). HDTV's greatly enchanced image quality, if applied worldwide, could improve many aspects of daily life, from teaching and medicine to the arts. With the new high definition screen quality, television could become a revolutionary medical tool—for example, a surgeon in Los Angeles could instantly examine and diagnose a patient in Mexico City.

"The 1990s will continue to be a period of remarkable change", ITU Secretary-General Dr. Pekka Tarjanne says. "Let's not forget that many developing countries risk being left out of the information revolution. It is the responsibility of ITU to be ready to assist in building the missing links."

NEWS ALMANAC

Nine Western States pull out of Indian Ocean Committee

France, the United Kingdom and the United States have withdrawn from the 49-member *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean, citing as a reason that the Committee had violated the consensus rule. Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway did not attend the Committee's 1990 spring session (16-20 April, New York). Committee Chairman Daya Perera of Sri Lanka said that he hoped the Body could agree on a policy acceptable to all at its July 1990 session.

UN Photo 139701/R. Witlin

Night work, hazardous chemicals: new international labour standards

New international standards on night work and on the use of hazardous chemical substances at work were adopted by the International Labour Conference, at its 77th session, which ended in Geneva on 27 June.

While noticing recent "positive developments" in South Africa, the Conference called on for the continuation and strengthening of political and economic sanctions against that country. The annual meeting was attended by over 2,000 government, employer and worker representatives from the International Labour Organization's 149 member States.

Latin America, the Caribbean development plan adopted

A plan to develop the region's economies in the 1990s and beyond was adopted in May by the ministerial conference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Caracas, Venezuela. Economic transformation with greater social equity was considered the primary task for all countries in the area. New options for reducing external debt payments, based on the experience of the 1980s, were proposed to Governments.

Torture Committee hears reports on 5 States

The Committee against Torture—established under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment—held its fourth session in Geneva from 23 April to 4 May. Its 10 experts examined reports submitted by China, the Netherlands, Senegal, Tunisia and Ukrainian SSR on measures they have taken to give effect to their obligations under the Convention.

The Committee also considered, in closed meetings, information which appeared to indicate that torture was being systematically practised by a State party. The State concerned was invited to participate in the examination of the information.

As of 1 April 1990, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 52 States.

Emergency aid for Palestinian refugees

An appeal for $5 million from the international community to enable the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to continue emergency operations in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the remainder of 1990 was made in June by Giorgio Giacomelli, the Agency's Commissioner-General. He also called for special contributions to finance the construction of a much needed 200-bed hospital in the Gaza Strip. Another $35 million would be needed by UNRWA to continue its emergency operations in the same areas next year, Mr. Giacomelli said.

Aid needed for Mozambican refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees launched an appeal in April for continued financial support for Mozambican refugees in Malawi, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe—the largest refugee population in Africa. More than $32 million are needed in 1990 for aid programmes. Malawi hosts the largest number—772,402—of Mozambican refugees. Zimbabwe is second with 175,000.

Environment update

• **EARTH DAY 1990:** Present at the celebration of Earth Day—April 22, 1990—in the General Assembly Hall were 42 astronauts and cosmonauts representing 14 countries. Speaking at the occasion, General Assembly President Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria warned that "any development theory and plan will come to zero unless vital ecological balances are maintained and our biological production systems protected".

• **ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE:** Preparations for the UN Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992, picked up speed when the General Assembly on 2 April decided on the mandate and responsibilities of the Conference secretariat to be based in Geneva, with smaller offices in Nairobi and New York.

• **ELECTRONIC ACCESS:** Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the Conference, announced in April the inauguration of a "Global Electronic Network" to provide information on Conference preparations to all interested parties.

• **NATIONAL LIMITS ON CARBON EMISSIONS:** A plan under which countries would be allocated shares of a permissible world-wide ceiling on carbon emissions was endorsed on 15 May in Geneva by Kenneth Dadzie, Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

• **CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA:** An international conference held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi from 2 to 5 May examined the impact of climate change on African countries and urged appropriate national policy responses.

• **TROPICAL FORESTS:** In a report to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, an expert team urged adoption of an international convention to help save the world's rapidly vanishing forests.

We are now 5.3 billion

In its 1990 revision of population and demographic figures, the UN Population Division estimated the world population to be 5.3 billion, with 92 million people being added during 1990. By the year 2025, the total population will have increased 60 per cent to 8.5 billion. Population growth levels and trends differed between the more developed and less developed countries of the world, the Population Division said. In the more developed regions, population increased 45 per cent between 1950 and 1990; in less developed regions, it increased by 143 per cent.

Human rights workshops

Human rights workshops were organized in Manila and Ottawa in May and June by the Centre for Human Rights, in co-operation with the Governments of the Philippines and Canada. Topics at the Manila meeting included the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in Ottawa, the Optional Protocol to the 1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

UN Photo 175950U Isaac

Winners from East and West

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar *(centre)* meets with the winners of essay contests organized by the United Nations Associations of the United States and the USSR. They are, from left, Nancy Hiemstra (first place winner, United States), Jay Kim, Mariana Nezhivaya, Irina Pavlova, Lily Chinn and Alexei Chupilkin (first place winner, USSR).

Coming Up . . .

A preview of some important United Nations conferences and events

October—December 1990

New York

11 October	Special Committee against *Apartheid*—Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners
1-2 November	United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities
29 November	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People—Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
December	United Nations Development Programme—Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting
December	Disarmament Commission, organizational session

Geneva

1-12 October	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development—Trade and Development Board, 37th session, first part
22 October-9 November	Human Rights Committee, 40th session
29 October-7 November	World Meteorological Organization—Second World Climate Conference
1-16 November	International Labour Organisation—Governing Body and its committees, 248th session
12-23 November	Committee against Torture, 5th session
26 November-7 December	Second United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices
26 November-14 December	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 5th session
3-12 December	Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, 16th session
3-14 December	Commission on Human Rights—*Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa

Vienna

8-25 October	International Narcotics Control Board, 48th session
5-9 November	United Nations Industrial Development Organization—Industrial Development Board, 7th session
19-23 November	Commission on Narcotic Drugs—Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies—European Region

Other Locations

October	Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, 30th session, Rome
13 November-14 December	International Civil Aviation Organization—Council, 131st session, Montreal
19-30 November	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN—Council, 98th session, Rome
29 November-2 December	International Fund for Agricultural Development—Executive Board, 41st session, Rome
November	International Maritime Organization—Council, 64th session, London

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to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

**HAVE RESOLVED TO
COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO
ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS**

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.